

THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY IN A



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# The History of Pharmacy In Alberta: the First One Hundred Years

*(from leeches to lasers)*

THE ALBERTA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION  
Edmonton, Alberta



*This book is dedicated to J. Kenneth Penley, a retired Calgary pharmacist.*

*It is his dream. For the countless hours of research which he contributed, the many meetings he chaired and the thousands of words he wrote, he has forever earned the gratitude of those who practice his beloved profession of pharmacy.*

Donald M. Cameron,  
For Pharmacy





# Preface

HOW IMPORTANT IS history? Very:

It has become the vogue in the last half of the twentieth century to research ones roots. Especially is this so in the last two decades. Is it not then of some importance to record the history of our profession for the past one hundred years? The history of pharmacy, undoubtedly the oldest health profession, has been fairly well recorded in hieroglyphics, pictures from the imagination and signs and words for the past several centuries. But we need to know more about the "recent" pioneers and those who have contributed to our present state of well being. It is said that pharmacy has made greater strides, as a science, in the last fifty years than it made in the fifty generations which preceded. If that is so, we owe a huge debt to those who practised with the tools with which they provided, to the visionaries who looked into the future 'far as the human eye could see' and changed pharmacy from an art form to a true science: from the purveyor of a few herbs and unctions to a researcher sharing in the probing of new ways to treat as yet incurable disease.

It is a fascinating story.

Donald M. Cameron,  
Editor-in-Chief







ALBERTA  
HEALTH

ON BEHALF OF the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to congratulate the Archives Committee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association for producing *The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: the First One Hundred Years*. The achievements and contributions of Alberta pharmacists deserve recognition.

I greatly value pharmacists and their contribution to the health and well-being of Albertans. Although the past one hundred years have brought significant technological advances in drug therapy, pharmacists have continued to provide individualized, personal care to their customers.

I am honoured to introduce this book to you as it uniquely captures the evolution of the practice of pharmacy. Congratulation on a job well done!

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shirley McClellan".

Shirley McClellan  
Minister of Health





DEAR FELLOW PHARMACISTS and Readers,

On the occasion of the publishing of the book *The History of Pharmacy in Alberta: the First One Hundred Years*, it is a pleasure and an honour to greet you as the President of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

Our profession has a rich and varied history. The early days of compounding all the medications in the pharmacy have given way to new technologies and sophisticated manufacturing.

Alberta's pharmacists have participated in this honourable practice through the discoveries of insulin and penicillin, through the years of the Depression, through World Wars, and numerous medical breakthroughs. As we read through these pages, I know that each of us, as members of this Association, will cherish the memories of our particular practices and those of members who practiced with us.

I commend all the members who persevered to collect and preserve all the memories and the history. Our gratitude to each and every one of you.

My very best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,

*Donna Kowalishin*

N. Donna Kowalishin, B.Sc. Pharm.  
President, A.Ph.A.  
January, 1993



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Edmonton, Alberta

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# Contents

Preface	v
Greeting from the Minister of Health	vii
Greeting from the President of the A.Ph.A.	ix
Foreward	xiii
Presidents of the A.Ph.A.	xvi
1 Early Legislation Governing Pharmacy	1
2 Important Milestones in Pharmacy Legislation	11
3 One Organization, or Two – or More?	19
4 Administration of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association	31
5 Pioneer Alberta Pharmacists	39
6 Pharmacy Education in Alberta	44
7 Women in Alberta Pharmacy	74
8 Hospital Pharmacy	96
9 Auxiliaries, Associations, and Support Groups	125
10 Manufacturing, Wholesalers, Buying Groups	152
11 The Golden Age of Prohibition	175
12 The Way It Was:	
a) Window Dressing	179
b) Price Codes	184
c) The Great Depression	187
d) Pharmacists in the Public Service	189
e) Dynasties	192
f) The Romance Between Pharmacy and Photofinishing	202

13	Military Service of Alberta Pharmacists	207
14	Emergency Health Services	225
15	Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Southern Alberta	228
16	Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Calgary	283
17	Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Central Alberta	305
18	Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Edmonton	356
19	Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Northern Alberta	379
20	Notable Pharmacists of Alberta	411
21	Awards	441
22	Trends in Pharmacy	450
23	Quo Vadis	454
	Appendix 1: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act	459
	Appendix 2: Acknowledgement of Financial Support	469

# Foreword

*This book has been produced by the Archives Committee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. We trust that this history will provide a useful source of information for contemporary and future researchers and archivists as well as providing pleasant memories for current readers.*

THE ONE HUNDRED years referred to in the title are those years during which Alberta pharmacists had an Association and regulations starting with the North West Territories Pharmacy Act of 1892, however our historical review dates from as early as 1882 and we even dared to forecast the future of pharmacy in Alberta.

Alberta pharmacists owe a debt of gratitude to the late Dr. Arthur J. Anderson by whose energy and efforts, the Archives Committee was vitalized into the useful and active group it is today. Art accompanied our Inspectors, in particular Walter Boddy, on their rural rounds asking for donations of pharmacy artifacts and submission of biographies. He gathered together others with similar aims into committee status. He, with Dr. Lou Pagliaro, saw that displays of collected artifacts were placed on view at the University Faculty and at the Association offices. Art was instrumental in preparing the souvenir Golden Anniversary booklet for Alberta pharmacists in 1961.

Mr. William Lesick has also been our chairman, providing guidance for several years.

The present Archives Committee is carrying on with this work and the book you have in your hands is one example of this. We continue to gather and display pharmacy artifacts and the Alberta pharmacists who donated such items are thanked by all of us. A recent activity in this regard can be seen at the Sun Drug Store on 1920s street in Fort Edmonton which was partially stocked from our collection. Members of our committee interview those pharmacists who attend the Golden Anniversary luncheon at the annual convention and a



Archives Committee 1992.

seated (l to r): Rosemary Bacovsky, Don Cameron, Ken Penley, Stu Bailey.

standing (l to r): Joe Stepa, Bill Lesick, Eli Ambrosie, Walter Boddy, Terry Kassian, Dave McRitchie.

at right: committee member, Gloria Hladun.

record is made of these 50 year careers and is presented to them on video cassette. A copy is preserved in our Archives. In recent years much emphasis has been placed on the gathering and storage of information by means of interviews, news items, photographs and other data. In part, this book is an attempt to make much of that information more easily accessible to all Alberta pharmacists.

I am very pleased that Mr. Don Cameron agreed to act as our editor and to allow us to make use of his deep store of knowledge of Alberta pharmacy and pharmacists. Little did he know that he would be writing a considerable portion of the contents of the book as well. It has given me great personal pleasure to work closely with this pillar of Alberta pharmacy on this project. His second retirement has thus been delayed. Perhaps he can now enjoy his third. I want to thank Don most sincerely and also the other members of the Archives Committee who contributed to this book by research, photography, writing, or in any other way.

Many pharmacists in the province either wrote or otherwise provided information for this publication. We hope we have thanked them all in the appropriate section. A few useful submissions were sent to us anonymously or unsigned and we thank them as well as any others whose names may have been inadvertently missed.

Our grateful thanks is extended to the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association whose support, both moral and financial, enabled this book to be published. Registrar Greg Eberhart, Deputy Registrar Olly Kochan and the office staff have been most helpful. In particular we appreciate having hun-

dreds of pages of typing done and re-done for us by Tammy Allsup in such a cheerful manner.

My personal gratitude is extended to our son, Donald Penley, who insisted, quite correctly, that computer and word processing training and use would make my work for this book much easier and quicker, who installed his own computer in our home for my use until the book was completed and who personally answered the numerous times when I pressed the Help! key.

We acknowledge, with thanks, the information and assistance obtained from:

Ernst W. Stieb and the Canadian Academy of the History of Pharmacy.

The late Dr. A.W. Matthews. We wish he could have seen a copy.

The National Archives of Canada, War Records Department.

The staff of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal.

The staff of the Glenbow Archives and Glenbow Library, Calgary.

The Historical Society of Alberta.

The City of Edmonton Archives.

The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy.

The Archives of the Alberta Provincial Legislature.

The Association of Senior Apothecaries, Edmonton.

The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Calgary office.

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J. Kenneth Penley  
Chairman of Book Project  
Archives Committee  
Alberta Pharmaceutical Association

# Presidents of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association

*photographic reproductions by Joe Stepa*



1911/12 - 1919/20  
J. D. Higinbotham



1912/13  
George H. Graydon



1913/16  
Prof. H. H. Gaetz



1916/17  
N. I. McDermid



1917/18  
J. H. Lines



1918/19  
C. S. Pingle



1920/21  
T. R. Blain



1921/22  
M. R. Maybank



1922/23  
W. F. McGill



1923/24  
R. E. Harrison



1924/25  
Percy Yeo



1925/26  
A. A. Keir



1926/27  
F. A. Heath



1927/28  
J. H. Burrows



1928/29  
W. T. Esdale



1929/30  
C. E. Shaw





1930/31  
S. Jackson



1931/32  
H. W. Chambers



1932/33  
A. F. McKibbin



1933/34  
W. C. Black



1934/35  
D. W. Torrie



1935/36  
V. E. Hessel



1936/37  
E. G. Grant



1937/39  
E. C. Tregale



1939/40  
N. Scott



1940/41  
A. M. Sutherland



1941/42  
M. J. Warner



1942/43 - 1944/46  
Noel A. Farrow



1943/44  
O. L. Reinecke



1946/48  
N. J. Devereaux



1948/50  
C. G. Torrance



1950/51 - 1951/52  
J. T. Clarke



1952/53  
Henry W. Rogers



1953/54  
Don King



1954/55  
T. R. Cornett



1955/56  
J. R. Boake



1956/57  
D. M. Cameron



1957/58  
R. E. Maybank



1958/59 - 1964/65  
D. F. McKeague



1959/60  
W. P. Skelton



1960/61  
R. W. Christopherson



1961/62  
W. W. Maday



1962/63  
M. R. Johnstone



1963/64  
W. L. Boddy



1965/66  
R. J. Edgar



1966/67  
George Draffin



1967/68  
S. L. Miller



1968/69  
P. Coyle



1969/70 - 1970/71  
J. Murray Byers



1971/72 - 1972/73  
R. B. MacLean



1973/74  
Len Slipp



1974/75  
Doreen E. Zinyk



1975/76  
D. J. McRitchie



1976/77  
L. R. Holroyd



1977/78  
B. A. Ferbey



1978/79  
S. A. Lissack



1979/80  
C. H. Wright



1980/81  
Doreen E. Hagen



1981/82  
T. F. Boyle



1982/83  
E. K. Richardson



1983/84  
Dr. R. E. Moskalyk



1984/85  
K. W. Whiteley



1985/86  
C. P. Wepler



1986/87  
D. S. Vickerson



1987/88  
R. D. Schuster



1988/89  
M. E. Ward



1989/90  
G. E. Eberhart



1990/91  
R. H. Sprague



1991/92  
Dr. J. M. Baker



1992/93  
N. D. Kowalishin



# 1

## Early Legislation Governing Pharmacy

*We are indebted to the late Honourable C.E. Gerhart\*, a Coronation, Alberta pharmacist for his diligent research into the last years of the (then) Northwest Territories which embraced, in part, the about to emerge provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan.*

*We are proud to reproduce the 'story' which Mr. Gerhart related to the attendees at the President's Banquet on the occasion of the Annual Meeting of 1941. In the paragraph which precedes the delivery of the history it is stated, "it is regrettable that the many witty and amusing situations referred to by Mr. Gerhart, which kept the members in peals of laughter, were not included in the following paper".*

### History of the Pharmaceutical Association of the North-West Territories

During the first years of the settlement of the North-West Territories, there were no restrictions of any kind regarding the practise of any profession or engaging in any form of business, so that any person desiring to do so, could engage in the practise of Law or Medicine or open a store for the sale of Drugs and Medicine or the Dispensing of Prescriptions. So far as Pharmacy is concerned, this situation prevailed until the end of 1891.

During some of the years before that date, some of us started an agitation for a Pharmaceutical Association and to secure the passage of an Act through the North-West Territories Legislative Assembly.

We secured the sympathetic assistance of Dr. Brett, M.L.A., of Banff, who piloted the Act through the Assembly, and it was signed by Lieutenant Governor Royal on January 25th, 1892.

This Act was very much the same as the first Pharmacy Act of Ontario,

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\* C.E. "Jerry" Gerhart was a pharmacist, graduated from the University of Alberta in 1924. He was first elected as a Social Credit M.L.A. in 1940. He performed as the Party Whip and later was appointed to the cabinet in such portfolios as Minister of Municipal Affairs, Minister for Trade and Commerce, Provincial Secretary and Provincial Treasurer.





C. E. Gerhart

which came into force in May, 1891. It provided that all persons carrying on business as Chemists and Druggists on their own behalf at the date of the passage of the Act shall form the Pharmaceutical Association and shall be held to be registered as from that date.

It also provided that a Council of five should be elected to hold office for two years. The first election was to take place on a day fixed by proclamation of the Lieutenant Governor and was to be in charge of Mr. R.B. Gordon, Clerk of the Legislature. Such election was held in the early spring of 1892 and the following letter gives the results:

Regina, 26th April, 1892

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that pursuant to the Pharmaceutical Ordinance, I this day proceeded to scrutinize and count the voting papers for the election of the first Council of the Association, when the highest number of votes was found to be received by the following five persons, whom I therefore declare elected.

R. Martin, Regina  
W.C. Pettingell, Regina  
W. Bole, Moose Jaw  
W. MacLean, Calgary  
J.D. Higinbotham, Lethbridge

As soon as the council have met and appointed a Registrar, I will forward him a list of the persons who are entitled, under the provisions of the Ordinance, to be considered as registered Members of the Association.

I have the Honor to be, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R.B. Gordon,  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly,  
N.W.T.

W.G. Pettingell, Esq.,  
Regina, NWT

On June 20th, 1892, the first meeting of the Council was held in the Palmer House, Regina, with Robert Martin, W.G. Pettingell and W.W. Bole, of Moose Jaw present. The following officers were elected:

Robert Martin, President  
W.W. Bole, Vice-President  
W.G. Pettingell, Registrar-Treasurer;  
and the Examiners were appointed as follows:  
Wm. Bogden, QuAppelle  
G.S. Hill, Regina  
Robert Martin, Regina

The first Examination was set to be held in Regina on the first Wednesday and Thursday in August, 1892.

The first set of By-Laws were adopted, these, among other things, provided for a Registration fee of \$10 and an Examination fee of \$15. They also provided for a \$50 remuneration, per Annum, for the Registrar-Treasurer and he was required to furnish a satisfactory bond for the sum of \$500.

In August, 1892, the first examination was held and Mr. W.L. Carley was the only Candidate, and he was successful in passing. During the spring of 1893, a regular election for Council for 1893 and 1894 was held, and the following were declared elected:

Robert Martin, Regina  
W.G. Pettingell, Regina  
W.W. Bole, Moose Jaw  
Wm. Bogden, QuAppelle  
J.G. Templeton, Calgary

The second meeting of the Association was held in Regina on June 19th, 1893, with all the members of the Council present:

W.W. Bole was elected President  
J.G. Templeton, Vice-President  
W.G. Pettingell, Registrar-Treasurer  
the examiners appointed were J.G. Templeton, Wm. Bogden and Robert Martin.

The By-Laws were amended, making the amount of the Annual fee \$5 instead of \$10 leaving the Registration fee at \$10. The Registrar reported that 44 persons had been registered and there was a balance of cash on hand of \$326.

The third meeting of the Association was held in Moose Jaw on August 4th, 1894. Since the last meeting one of the Council, Mr. Bogden, had died. As Mr. Bogden was also one of the examiners, the Council appointed Mr. A.D. Ferguson of Wolseley in his place.

Two candidates, O.H. Bott and R.B. Taylor, presented themselves for examination and both were successful.

J.G. Templeton was elected President  
Robert Martin, Vice-President  
W.W. Bole, Registrar-Treasurer

The Registrar-Treasurer reported 56 names on the Register and \$429.71 in the treasury.

The By-Laws were further amended by adding \$2 per day to each Councillor for actual time occupied in attending meetings of the Association. This amount was in addition to 5 cents a mile each way for travelling expenses.

The business of the Association was carried on in the usual way. Regular Annual Meetings were held in Regina, Moose Jaw, and Calgary. The Association was growing in numbers. At the end of the first ten years we had 132 names on the Register and a balance of cash on hand of \$1,115.80.

In the spring of 1902, we secured the passage of an Act through Legislature amending some of the clauses of the Pharmacy Act, one of which was power to elect 7 Councillors instead of 5.

At the meeting held in Regina in 1901, the registration fee was raised to \$50.

The election for Council was held in the spring of 1903 and the following seven were elected:

W.G. Pettingell, Regina  
Robert Martin, Regina  
Walter Pennington, Moosomin  
A.D. Ferguson, Wolesley  
James Findlay, Calgary  
O.H. Bott, Calgary  
J.D. Higinbotham, Lethbridge

The following officers were appointed:

J.D. Higinbotham, President  
James Findlay, Vice-President  
Walter Pennington, Registrar-Treasurer

A motion was passed at this meeting, that in future, and until the Association has a college, candidates for examination be allowed to sit at a point nearest their residence.

The Registrar-Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$2,926.80. This meeting was held in Banff, on August 18th, 1903.

On March 21, 1906, a special meeting of the Council was held, at the call of James Findlay, President, in Edmonton.

Mr. Findlay explained that at a meeting of the Alberta Druggists, held in Red Deer, a resolution was adopted expressing their intention of applying to the Legislative Assembly at Edmonton for power to form a Pharmaceutical Association for the Province of Alberta. The matter was thoroughly discussed and a motion was adopted unanimously agreeing to dissolve and each Province forming its own Association. The President and Registrar-Treasurer were appointed a committee to wind up affairs of the Association and divide the balance of cash on hand (\$10,804.06) on a per capita basis.

The Alberta Druggists had a bill prepared and applied to the Legislature to have it passed, but a serious opposition developed, the Druggists had the bill withdrawn.

At a regular meeting of the Association held in Banff on July 12, 1906, it was deemed advisable to continue as we were and a motion to that effect was unanimously adopted. At this meeting, Mr. Pennington declined to continue as Registrar-Treasurer, and Robert Martin was appointed in his place.

The Association carried on in the usual way until July 19, 1910. The Association met in Banff on that date. J.D. Higinbotham, President, was unable to be present and G.H. Graydon, Vice-President, occupied the chair. In addition to the Council, Messrs. J.M. Sissons, Edmonton, C.S. Pingle,

Medicine Hat, and F. Edwards, North Battleford, were present. The Registrar-Treasurer in quite a lengthy report, stated that the matter of most vital importance for the meeting to consider was the question of separation. Our Pharmacy Act was the only one of the old acts that was still in force in Saskatchewan and that he had received a strong hint that it would be necessary for the Druggists of Saskatchewan to take some action soon. The report was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. A.D. Ferguson, J.M. Sissons, James Findlay and F. Edwards. The Committee after consideration brought in the following report:

In view of circumstances which have arisen since our last annual meeting, we deem it advisable to place ourselves on record as favourable to the formation of a Provincial Association for Saskatchewan and a Provincial Association for Alberta, and we respectfully instruct the Council of the Association to frame a Pharmacy Act for each Province. The same to be submitted for consideration to the Druggists of both Provinces before presenting to the Provincial Legislatures.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that this report be adopted. Mr. G.H. Graydon and Mr. A.D. Ferguson were appointed a committee to procure material and draft a Pharmacy Act for submission to the members of the Association.

A special meeting of the Council, called for the purpose of winding up the affairs of the North-West Territories Pharmaceutical Association was held in Edmonton on October 18, 1911. There were present, Messrs. J.D. Higinbotham, James Findlay, George H. Graydon, John Nicoll, A.D. Ferguson, Walter Pennington and Robert Martin. The Registrar-Treasurer reported the assets of the Association at \$19,503.44 and a motion was adopted dividing that amount in the proportions of 185 parts to Alberta and 256 parts to Saskatchewan. These figures represented the number of Druggists in business in each of the Provinces.

The remainder of the business transacted at this meeting was all directly connected with the winding up proceedings.

In closing let me say, that in all the years from 1892 to 1911, it was always a great pleasure attending the meetings and associating with the members. There never was any sign of friction or unpleasantness, and it was with real regret that we were compelled to separate.

(signed) Robert Martin  
Regina, Saskatchewan

## **History of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association 1911 – March 14th**

The first meeting of the first Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association was held in Calgary on March 14th and 15th, 1911, in the offices of the National Drug Company.

James Findlay  
D.W. McDonald  
C.S. Pingle  
J.D. Higinbotham

Geo. J. Graydon  
Dr. J.S. Monkman  
H.H. Gaetz

were present.

Under an Order in Council No. 59 of the Executive Council of the Province, dated January 9th, 1911, there were appointed seven men of the Province as the first Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. The seven men above named were so appointed and the seven met, and no others. The Act authorizing this Order in Council was passed the previous December 16th and was entitled an Act Respecting Chemists and Druggists.

The substance of the Order in Council was as follows: The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act of December 16th, 1910, says "All persons registered as members of the North West Territories Association shall constitute the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. The first Council shall be appointed by the Lieut. Governor in Council. Three shall be appointed for one year, four for two years, then they shall be elected at large by members of the Association. There shall be a Council to direct and manage the affairs of the Corporation, a majority to decide. In case of vacancy the Council shall elect or choose a man to fill this vacancy to complete that term. The Council may meet as required. They must call a general meeting of the Association once each year, under the terms of the Act, oftener if petitioned to do so."

The old Association was divided into the Association of Saskatchewan and the Association of Alberta. The new Alberta Association elected their permanent officers: J.D. Higinbotham of Lethbridge as President and D.W. McDonald, Registrar-Treasurer – and drafted their by-laws. They conformed to good procedure – only seven were present, they formed the committee of the whole, drafted their by-laws, returned to Council, adopted the by-laws suggested by the committee of the whole – very particular and efficient. A Board of Examiners was elected consisting of Messrs. Higinbotham, Graydon and Monkman.

**July 4th and 5th – First Annual.** A second meeting, or the first Annual meeting, held at Banff, July 4th and 5th, 1911. Five members of the Council were present. The sale of poisons in Alberta by mail by Winnipeg Mail Order House was investigated. Winnipeg wholesalers were selling poisons direct to the consumer. Objections were taken.

Reciprocal arrangements were now in force with Ontario.

Amendments to the Liquor Act was recorded for the first time, preventing the sale of liquor on Sunday.

Sunday sales were declared illegal.

First students to pass the new examinations were: Messrs. McLuhan, Crooks and Hunt.

The first Pharmaceutical Association Act appears in this volume as Appendix 1 through the courtesy of the government of the Province of Alberta.

During the course of our researches we learn that there were changes in legislation titled:

Revised Ordinances 1898

Revised Ordinances 1905

Revised Ordinances 1922

1910 second session chapter 38

An Act respecting Chemists and Druggists (see as appendix 1).

The three ordinances 1898, 1905 and 1922 will not appear as indexes, but will, however, be placed with archival material for students or researchers who care to peruse them.

The first Act was improperly introduced as a private bill. Not until the revised statutes of Alberta 1922 was the legislation introduced as a public Act as all professional Acts should be.

Be that as it may, the first Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act of 1910 gave notice to the world that the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association had been born.

In this year of our Lord, 1992, pharmacy on the prairies, regulated by an Act, is a century old. You be the judge of whether Alberta deserves its rating as one of the premier Pharmacy organizations in Canada, in North America, in the world.

To complete the start up of pharmacy in Alberta we reproduce for your further information photos of the Presidents who have led the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association; in addition we present, for nostalgia and the future, the photos of the Council of 1911, 1961 and 1992.

May their shadow never grow less!

*Editor's note: as the photos must, necessarily, be small so lists of names will have to accompany if any real meaning is to be conveyed.*



The First Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association 1911-1912

back (l to r): Chas S. Pingle, Medicine Hat; Donald W. MacDonald, Registrar, Edmonton; Herbert S. Monkman, Vegreville.  
front (l to r): Halley H. Gaetz, Red Deer; John D. Higinbotham, Lethbridge; James Findlay, Calgary; George H. Graydon,  
Edmonton.



The Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association 1960-61

front (l to r): Dr. M. J. Huston, Dean (Faculty representative to the Council); Donald M. Cameron, Registrar-Treasurer; W. P. Skelton, Lethbridge, Immediate Past-President; R. W. Christopherson, Edmonton President; Donald F. McKeague, Calgary (President of the C.Ph.A.)

back (l to r): Ralph E. Maybank, Olds; Thomas R. Cornett, Red Deer; M. R. Johnstone, Camrose; W. L. Boddy, Edmonton; J. Ross Boake, Vermillion; W. W. Maday, Edmonton (Representative of hospital pharmacists); F. G. McAdam, Calgary (Inspector); James T. Clarke, Calgary.





The Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association 1991-92  
front (l to r): Fred Rumpel, Councillor (District #8); Judy Baker, Past President (District #3); Bob Sprague, President (District #5); Donna Kowalishin, President-Elect (District #3); Chris Graham, Vice-President (District #2).  
back (l to r): Carolyn Blight, President APhUS; Joe Tabler, Councillor (District #4); Jim Cameron, Councillor (District #1); Bob Antoniuk, Councillor (District #5); Reg Hihn, Councillor (District #6).  
missing: Jamie Raisbeck, Councillor (District #7); Dr. R. E. Moskalyk, Dean (Ex-Officio)

## 2

# Important Milestones In Pharmacy Legislation

by Donald M. Cameron

THE STATURE OF a profession, not unlike that of a nation, can be credited in a significant degree, to the timeliness and appropriateness of legislation to keep pace with progress and the inevitable change and the rate of that change.

The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association has a proud record in its pursuit of, and the acquisition of, needed legislation. Reference has been made in chapter 1 to the North West Territories Pharmacy Act. The legislation which produced the first Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act is the subject of the previous chapter. This chapter will deal with apparent needs for legislative change and some of the significant legislation that has been introduced in the past fifty years.

The legislation which provided for liquor to be dispensed in the drug store, on the prescription of a physician, became law July 1, 1915. The colourful escapades which accompanied the sale of liquor is covered in the chapter, "The Golden Age of Prohibition" and will not be repeated here. There is no mention in the minutes of the Annual Meeting of 1927 that the Prohibition Act had passed into history. A search of the activities of the Association records provides virtually no mention of legislative activity in the 1930's. The world was in the midst of the great depression and it was a struggle to survive without trying to raise funds for legislative change even supposing they were necessary.

In the early 1940's there commenced to be rumblings that some of the professions were playing fast and loose with admission requirements both with Albertans seeking entry to a profession, and out of province candidates being admitted or denied admission on the whim of influential persons.

The story, which cannot be documented by the editor, was that the government of the day threatened to dissolve professional associations and assume the authority for legislation and regulations. This galvanized the professions into frantic action.

Alberta Pharmacy Councils of the day had not been asleep at the switch. They had been quietly pursuing legislation to overhaul:

- apprenticeship requirements for entrance to studies;
- requirements for out-of-province pharmacists seeking registration with the Association;
- educational accomplishments which enabled graduates to apply for registration in the Association.

After valiant and consistent attempts to secure a Pharmacy Act, success was at last achieved and there follows an excerpt from the minutes of 1944-45. Mr. C.W. Pickup, the Registrar-Treasurer, at the time, reported to the annual meeting:

It is not my purpose to tell you all the difficulties encountered; sufficient to say that three times a day troubles developed and three times a day they were successfully met and countered, and fifteen minutes before prorogation the Act was signed by the Lieutenant-Governor at 4:45 p.m., April 6th, 1945.

It is my privilege to inform you that since that time the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act, 1945, has been in effect.

Now, as you might expect, the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act, 1945, is largely a re-enactment of the old Act, but it has many important changes. I have been asked to give you some of the major changes.

First – Many of the things which were in the old Act have been transferred to the By-Laws to facilitate the conduct of our affairs. We did not wish to go back for an amendment to the Act every time we wished to alter some existing condition. And here I might say that the Government was very reluctant to give these powers into the hand of the Association. And too, some of the old By-Laws were transferred to the Act where it was felt that these provisions were permanent.

Second – The qualifications for future registration is changed. Under the old Act three years apprenticeship and two years successfully completed at the University of Alberta was required. This Act provides for two years internship and the Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy Degree with no mention of any required numbers of years. At present the Bachelor of Science Degree requires three years attendance at the University, but it is the degree that counts, not the number of years it takes to receive the degree.

Third – Provision has been made for those in the Armed Forces who were



Several Past Presidents of A.Ph.A. gather at the retirement party for Muriel and Don Cameron, 1982.

apprenticed before enlistment, or before June 15, 1944, that they may be granted special permission by the Council to take the two year course.

Fourth – Provision has been made for all apprentices who where registered as such prior to June 15, 1944, to take the two year course, at the discretion of the Council, with the provision that the student must have completed his apprenticeship before, and start his University training by the fall of 1946.

Fifth – Provision is made for the registration of any British subject from any other Pharmaceutical Association in Great Britain or Ireland or the Dominion of Canada or the United States of America without examination, providing the Association from which he comes, grants the same privilege to members of our Association, subject to the approval of the Council.

Sixth – Provision is made for the receiving of members from other Associations upon examination in such subjects as may be required to bring the applicant's qualification on a par with our requirements respecting our own members. But the Council reserves the right to refuse to approve the applications for registration from outside our own province.

Seventh – As you would expect, the entire sections on apprenticeship are deleted and instead we have a new section on Internship. The Council of the Association shall have the power to formulate rules and regulations, qualifica-

tions, training and discipline of internes; applicants must be 16 or more years of age and of good character; they must enter into an agreement with a Registered Pharmaceutical Chemist; and no pharmacist may have more than one interne at the same time.

Eighth – The compounding and sale of Poisons have a further exception, namely; the exception of compounds for use in control of plant diseases and of pests and predators of plants and animals.

Ninth – No person who is not registered under this Act may dispense any prescription, recipe of formula, or compound any drugs or medicines unless the establishment is in charge and under the supervision of one who is registered. And no person may hire one who is not registered for the above purposes unless the place is in charge of a registered person. This will require all hospital dispensaries to have registered pharmacists in charge if they wish to continue in operation.

Tenth – The registered pharmacists in charge of a drug store pharmacy or dispensary, (and also the proprietor if he be not the same) who ceases to be in charge must within five days of such cessation notify the Registrar in writing.

Eleventh – Section 30 provides that wherever drugs are sold by other than registered pharmacists that they must be sold in the original sealed packages. This applies also to wholesale as well as retail, and it excepts the drugs mentioned in Section 27.

Twelfth – the penalty has been increased. The first offence is now twenty-five dollars and costs and all subsequent penalties are one hundred dollars and costs.

These are the main changes in the Act and we hope to have a copy available for each member who wishes a copy.

The pharmacists of Alberta lived comfortably with the new Act until a bombshell was launched, and landed, in 1962, by Bill 102. The Bill, initiated by government, had no official pharmacist input. It shook the foundations of pharmacy around the world, but was particularly the topic of pharmacy conversation in North America.

Bill 102, improperly referred to as the “substitution law” received first and second reading in the legislature before official pharmacy was aware of its existence. Probably this, more than any other reason, caused pharmacists to be bitterly opposed. To refresh your memory or, for those of you seeing it for the first time, Section 62 of the Pharmaceutical Association Act (1962, c.61, s.3) reads:

Where a prescription refers to a drug or drug combination by a brand name or a name other than its generic name, a pharmaceutical chemist, in dispensing the prescription may use a drug or drug combination that is the

generic or brand name equivalent of that named in the prescription, unless the prescriber indicates otherwise:

- a) by designating the name of the manufacturer, or;
- b) by specifying that no equivalent is to be dispensed.

An emergency meeting of the Council was convened in Calgary to which a couple of Physicians were invited. The vote by Councillors and guests was "unanimously opposed." The Registrar-Treasurer was to fly to Edmonton with instructions to relay to Dr. J. Donovan Ross, the then Minister of Health, the combined opposition to the proposed legislation. Dr. Ross was mildly surprised at the negative attitude of an entire profession whose members were unwilling and apparently unable to employ permissive legislation to make a decision in the realm in which they were the trained and recognized experts. It was a sobering thought. Subsequently some Calgary Physicians organized a meeting and the President and Registrar for pharmacy were invited. Dr. F. B. Rodman a pharmacist turned pharmacologist (physician) had been the government's chief advisor on the proposed legislation. Dr. Rodman had informed the physicians that:

- prescription costs were a major concern;
- the proposed legislation was permissive but should eventually lead to a reduction in costs in comparing the product of one company with another,
- the decision to proceed was made because pharmacists by training and experience were in a better position than physicians to determine whose product could or should be used.

The proposed legislation brought visits and phone calls from most of the major pharmaceutical houses and other interested groups and individuals from Eastern Canada and parts of the U.S.A.

Having studied and weighed all the factors and their consequences on the profession, the President, W. W. Maday proposed that the A.Ph.A. would not oppose the proposed Bill 102.

The Bill passed into law. It was welcomed by some; despised by some; unused by many but in the year of 1992, the furore has largely abated and life goes on. In any event the authority it conferred on pharmacists spelled the end of such advertisements as "prescriptions dispensed exactly as your Doctor ordered".

The next major overhaul of the Pharmacy Act was wide ranging but was built around an attempt to limit majority pharmacy ownership to pharmacists.

The original purpose would have given non-compliers ten years to place 51% ownership in the hands of pharmacists. Numerous meetings were held around the province and the concept seemed overwhelmingly popular because the opponents did not choose to attend and participate in discussions. The extensive legislative bundle was presented to the legislature in the spring session of 1964. At the second reading Dr. Ross, who was sponsoring the Bill, called to say that 14 law firm representatives were ranging around the halls and he predicted the entire effort would be lost unless the ownership clause was removed. Pharmacy chose to withdraw the Bill to see how it could be amended and re-presented in 1965. It was re-presented and the substitute for majority ownership was the introduction of the "Pharmacy License". This has been a useful addition but does not, except for the philosophers, replace the original aim of majority pharmacist ownership.

But let us back up to review some of the most controversial pieces of legislation and regulation.

The first of these concerns advertising. Some would say that there is no place for the purists to participate in the "business of pharmacy".

If pharmacy is a profession, and most readers would agree that it is, then a measure of decorum is essential - even if it has to be legislated. Alberta is the only province and may be one of only two jurisdictions in North America, to have the teeth to control professional advertising! Perhaps it does not occur to you but look around you as you visit other jurisdictions in North America and the world. It makes you proud to be a leader.

When the Association voted to make the maintenance of family prescription record systems mandatory, there was weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth. But like most progressive legislation and regulation its worth won over the most vociferous detractors. Many who opposed it, with passion, now claim it as a cornerstone of responsible practise. There are those practising today who will not practise in a pharmacy that does not have a sophisticated computer system that provides a memory upon which responsible, professional decisions may be based.

The chapter would not be complete without mention of the near civil war which threatened to erupt when mandatory continuing education was introduced. After numerous district meetings supported the concept, the Annual Meeting in Banff was presented with a petition opposing the proposed legislation. The well attended meeting, however, overwhelmingly endorsed mandatory continuing education. Despite the long lead time and the granting of credits to enable most members to comply, when the first deadline came, some seventy members failed to accumulate the minimum required credits. They were suspended. The law is the law! It seems perfectly straight forward



Supporters (in the Cameron tartan) for D. M. Cameron in his unsuccessful bid to be President-Elect of C.Ph.A. in 1976.  
front (l to r): Ron MacLean, Louise Darichuk, Marian Holroyd.  
centre (l to r): Darlene MacLean, Olly Kochan, Doreen Zinyk, David McRitchie.  
back (l to r): Len Slipp, Muriel Cameron, Gloria Ferbey.

and reads: Section 20(K) dated December 15, 1975). The Council may prescribe training or educational requirements to be completed from time to time, or during a period of time, by members of the Association.

In the early 1980's it became apparent that some amendments to the 1965 Act were necessary. The Government of the day was loathe to grant amendments opting instead, for a total new Act patterned after the Architect's Act. The Council of the day was not enamoured of the new Architects Act, and chose to continue to try for the amendments thought necessary.

Eventually a white paper was tabled dealing with the Government's directions for Acts respecting Professions and Occupations. The Association made several representations with respect to some of the provisions of the white paper.

Eventually pharmacy was told that the Government would not entertain any amendments and advised the profession that it must draft a new Act. During the drafting of the new Act the Dental Profession Act was tabled.

The responsibility of drafting a new Act was given over to the then Registrar, Larry Shipka and Dr. R.E. Moskalyk. Assistance was sought from other pharmacists, among whom Clarence Weppler is singled out for commendation.

When a draft was finally completed it was presented to the Executive Committee and the full Council both of which bodies approved.



The draft was then circulated to the members and many district meetings were held to entertain questions and discussions.

Finally the draft for a new Act was presented to the Government. Many drafts, meetings and discussions later, the parties settled on what was to be introduced into the legislature as Bill 38. Coincidentally, a network of pharmacists was established to lobby for the important Schedule 3.

The draft, once more, promoted majority ownership by pharmacists. That principle did not succeed, again, but the Association did receive the right to discipline non-pharmacist owners, a first for any profession. The Act (Bill 38) received third reading and received royal assent on July 6, 1988. The Regulations were submitted, subsequently, but agreement on these (at this writing) had not been reached. Proclamation of the Act will not take place until the Regulations have been agreed upon.

To those who have no experience in dealing with legislatures, the countless delays brought on by disagreement, dissolutions, and elections mean little; to those who have had the repeated experience, it is a fact of life.

The writer of this chapter is convinced that many people are opposed to change. Most professional practitioners are violently opposed to change.

Despite the considerable opposition to many legislative changes it is fair to repeat that the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association has a proud record for its efforts to promote and secure progressive legislation and regulation to keep the profession and its practitioners current or ahead of the times.

*Editor's note: The "new Act" was finally promulgated in 1992 and there remains only the Regulations and Schedules to the Act to be debated.*

# 3

## One Organization or Two – or More?

by Donald M. Cameron

ONE ORGANIZATION OR two – or more? The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association is the only pharmacy organization in Alberta duly constituted by legislation. It exists to protect the public interest. Its By-laws, Rules, Regulations and Schedules are granted under the Act which authorizes their being. Is this not strange?

British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and the Maritimes have at least one other organization which purports to recognize the interests of the members who practise the profession of pharmacy. The province of Quebec has more than one other organization.

Other Alberta professions have a second organization. For example: The Medical Profession has the College of Physicians and Surgeons which governs the practice of Medicine. The members have the Alberta Medical Association. While membership is voluntary, it enjoys about 90% participation. The Nursing Profession has the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses which governs the practise of nursing. The members have the United Nurses of Alberta.

Why, you may ask, is this so?

It is interesting to pursue the history of attempts to organize a second duly constituted group.

On page 18 of the Minutes of the 1938 Annual Meeting of the Association, it was moved and seconded "that this meeting adjourn and reconvene at the call of the President". Carried. A meeting of the druggists of the Province of Alberta was then called with F.W. Heath in the chair: a scant sixty years ago!

The committee appointed by the chairman of the previous meeting reported as follows: "that, in the opinion of the committee, the forming of an Alberta Retail Druggists Association would be a distinct advantage to the Retail Druggists of Alberta, and strongly advised the formation of same, and also advised the forming of a Western Canada Retail Druggists Association with Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, if possible.

The committee reported that they were unanimous in this decision.

When the smoke cleared, after further discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried that there be formed a branch of the Western Retail Druggists Association. The meeting of the Druggists of the Province of Alberta was adjourned and the Annual General Meeting reconvened.

A motion was made that the Council of the Association be instructed to contribute \$10 for every acting member to the proposed new group. It was amended and carried that the Council be instructed to contribute the necessary funds for the first year of the Western Retail Druggists Association.

There follows pages of debate on numerous issues but the main ones were:

- a) should the Council of the Association be required, to underwrite all, part or more of the organization's start up expense? Opinions were rigid pro and con.
- b) many voiced the opinion that they were willing to put up "seed" money but the organization had no plan to sell people on what such an organization would do for them.

The old battle cry of "united we stand; divided we fall" was heard in every corridor.

Finally it was agreed that a delegate would be appointed to attend meetings in the other western provinces and report back on their assessment of the likelihood of progress in the formation of a Western Canada Druggists Association.

This proposal met with little success. It was stated that Saskatchewan and Manitoba had Retail Druggists Associations, and it would be easy to incorporate Alberta and British Columbia. Wishful thinking!

It was finally agreed that Alberta must proceed to form its own Retail Druggists Association and if a Western Association grew out of that, well and good.

The question of representatives to the new Association would be left to the Councillors of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. Each would appoint one from his district and these combined forces would meet at the first organizational meeting of the proposed Association, scheduled to meet in Calgary in September, 1932.

The difficult birth continued and the labour was prolonged because of a lengthy exercise in presenting, promoting and successfully launching a new pharmacy Act.

The first Council meeting of the Alberta Retail Druggists Association was convened in Calgary, June 4, 1933. The purposes were finally set out and they

were, simply stated, to make life better for the retail druggists, especially those operating small businesses. Money was still a problem and it seemed that most thought the funds should come from the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

The Alberta Retail Druggists Association became a Committee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association and for years it reported to the Council of the Association, and to the Annual General Meeting. Some of the giants of those days had contributed heart and soul and effort to advance the Alberta Retail Druggists Association. To name a few, (with apologies to the many not enumerated), such names as:

Fred W. Heath

J. Warden Somers

Matthew R. Maybank

Alan C. Sloane

William Goldberg

M. Jake Warner

William F. McGill

Otto H. Reinecke

come to mind.

The dream of a real Alberta Druggists Association never did get organized in a legal way, but there evolved the Board of Commercial Interests, familiarly known as the B.C.I.

The Board of Commercial Interests gave great impetus to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and may be said to share a good deal of the credit for the strength of that organization today.

As an aside, but of great importance, is the fact that the B.C.I. and the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association brought into being the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Pharmacy. This organization gave deserving voice to the educational arm of the profession. This chapter will not dwell on the Foundation's accomplishments; doubtless they are known to you and you may be one of the many who contribute annually to its financial success. Briefly, it encourages research at the Faculty level; it makes awards to worthy students and Faculty members; it makes loans to needy students; it prepares and distributes visual aids for all levels of pharmacy. These are a few of its contributions.

Tribute is, hereby, paid to the many individuals and corporations who, over the years, have given freely of time and talent to plan for its future and enhance its ever-widening sphere of influence that transcends the profession and leaves its imprint on society.

It seems appropriate to review, for you, part of the growth and importance of the B.C.I. and the long shadow it cast in the evolution of pharmacy as we know it.

There follows a report of Alberta's representative to the B.C.I. That man is

the late Victor Emanuel Hessel of Okotoks, Alberta, truly one of the giants in the growth and health of pharmacy (see photo with Past-Presidents, at the front of this book). As Executive Manager of the B.C.I., here is his report to the Annual Meeting of Pharmacists in Vancouver:

It is a pleasure to be back in Vancouver. Since my last visit here, it has been my privilege to hold meetings on the island and the interior of your province. I have also been through Alberta and Saskatchewan. All of these meetings were well attended and the average has been maintained, by average, I mean that these meetings have afforded the opportunity of direct contact with more than 50% of our membership. This has been very gratifying to the C.Ph.A. and I hope to the members as well. From the interest shown at all our meetings and from the opinions expressed I think it can be safely said, that never before in the history of pharmacy in Canada, have the members at large shown a greater interest in their own affairs, nor have they endeavoured to become better informed than they are doing today, nor shown greater determination to support the central body.

I think it can be said truthfully that "Pharmacy in Canada is on the march".

This is all very gratifying. It now remains to co-ordinate our opinions, decide on wise procedure, and to drive toward the goal of accomplishment. With your continued support, I feel certain your C.Ph.A. Council and your B.C.I. will do just that. The coming conference in Toronto in August should give great impetus to our plans and I look forward to the years 1944-45 one of not only marked progress, but of far reaching changes for the betterment of pharmacy and the drug industries as a whole.

The continued success, the expansion, and improvement of your Summer School and the refresher courses in other provinces, is an outstanding example of the results of careful planning and organization.

Many of our members feel that to proceed safely and wisely requires a sound foundation of approach and that the best approach to our whole problem is through a public relations program because a public relations program is at least two-fold in nature. First it conducts a "self-analysis campaign." It discovers our weaknesses and suggests the step to be taken to set our own house in order, and secondly, it proceeds to build up the whole industry into a position of good repute in the minds of the general public, "our customers," and in the minds of our business associates and our governing bodies.

Relative to all this, I would like to say a few words to you on "What are to be Our Plans for the future of Pharmacy?"

Many of us feel that the years immediately before us will bring many important changes to pharmacy; even if this be so, I do not think we need be unnecessarily alarmed. I think it can be said that the years just past wrought some very drastic and revolutionary changes in pharmacy and also that at the present moment we are carrying on under conditions that we would not have considered possible before the war. We have been able to survive, in fact we have made advances and have adapted ourselves to these changes to such an extent that one hears it said on every side that there will be no going back to old habits. However, in the mad scramble of the past 20 years, our affairs were undergoing change and we really lost something. Something that most of us feel was very important. I speak of the regard we as pharmacists once held in the public mind as compared with the regard we now enjoy in public opinion. Many of our most prominent leaders in pharmacy are alarmed about this and point out, by editorials and articles in our Pharmacy Journals that "Pharmacy" and "Pharmacists" have lost their self-respect. This is a very serious charge but unfortunately it seems to be well founded as was clearly shown by the "Bernay's Report." It may seem strange that I, the Executive Manager of your Board of Commercial Interests, should draw this to your attention for it has been stated that during the past two decades pharmacy has been misled, by the exponents of commercialism within its ranks, that too great emphasis has been placed on the production and selling of commodities which bear very little, if any, relationship to pharmacy. That in following this trend we have forgotten or failed to give greater attention to those pharmaceutical services which are our greatest asset and our direct responsibility in public health service and which, if neglected, simply relegates us to the field of being "Merchants of Parts." However, it is because I fully concur in this opinion that I draw this to your attention, and further because I fully believe that if we ever relinquish the position we now hold and which we rightfully hold because of our skill and ability to give the very best in pharmaceutical services to our people, we will have lost the greatest asset we now enjoy as pharmacists.

Perhaps it is because the work I am now doing, which has afforded me the opportunity of travelling across Canada, of having intimate contact with so many of the pharmacists of the Dominion, of being able to observe and appreciate the present status of pharmacy, through interviews and contacts with government officials and others, that I feel as I do on this point.

It is true that at present I am engaged in organizing the Retail Drug Trade of Canada into one coordinating body, but it must be remembered that once this organization is complete and functioning, then this same organization can work on all problems affecting the welfare of pharmacists as a whole.

A careful study of the position of pharmacy today could easily lead anyone to assume that we face a possible division in the whole structure of pharmacy. That division could be:

- 1st: The development of a type of pharmacy purely ethical in background, carrying on the business of dispensing only, and adding to this such other technical services as the pharmacists can best be trained to do in support of health services.
- 2nd: The other group being forced into the position of variety stores entitled to no greater consideration than will be given them by public opinion and this based only on the convenient service they render. Obviously this second group would have no security for the future, in fact, they would seriously jeopardize their own future and the entire future of pharmacy.

This trend in pharmacy fortunately is beginning to receive considerable attention, and pharmacy today is slowly arousing from its lethargy.

What shall we do to preserve the existing structure of pharmacy and the industry as a whole?

- 1st: We must recognize the lessened supply of competent pharmacists and the reduction in total number of retail outlets, for there has been a reduction, when in reality there should have been a substantial increase in proportion to normal development in our country.
- 2nd: We must recognize we are unable to supply the increasing demand, caused by expanding hospital and industrial activity.
- 3rd: We must recognize there is no provision for research, and other specialized services.

Obviously if we admit the foregoing facts we should be sufficiently concerned to look for the reasons.

Those who have given this problem most serious thought feel:

- 1st: That there is some question as to the timeliness of our pharmaceutical education and suggest changes can be affected that will be more in keeping with present conditions.
- 2nd: They point to the lowered prestige of pharmacy in the public mind, in our own ranks, and in the minds of government officials, as reflected by the attitude of Selective Service, the recognition of pharmacy in our armed forces, and the attitude of the allied professions.

With the gradual public trend to the socialization of medicine it seems clearly indicated that pharmacy together with allied industries, can well afford to develop a strong policy and program for the future of pharmacy in national circles. The views I have just presented to you are not figments of imagination but are clearly indicated by the comprehensive report shown as the "Bernay's Study" which culminated in certain specific recommendations. These indicated the following trends and I quote:

1. A long range social trend towards more medical care for every income group. This trend will effect every one in the country. It has particular significance for pharmacy and the drug trades.
2. An economic trend toward the growth of retail outlets for pharmaceutical products in foods stores, super markets, news stands, tobacco shops, and the like.
3. A long range technological trend towards the development of pharmaceutical specialty products by manufacturers, with a consequent lessened need for the compounding of these products in retail drug stores.
4. A long range technological trend toward increased employment of pharmacists by industries, laboratories, research institutions, hospitals and other forms of centralized medical care.
5. A long range educational trend toward better provisions for the development of pharmaceutical education, to prepare students for new callings in pharmacy.
6. A short range educational trend brought about by the war which, due to selective service and the like has produced a crisis.
7. A trend in medicine toward protective medicine, to the use of vitamins, sulfas and other curative drugs, then discoveries in medical care may play a profound part in the manufacture and sale of pharmaceutical products.
8. A post-war trend toward a relationship between industry and the public, predicated upon the knowledge and belief of the public, in those industries which they believe serve the public interest.

These specific recommendations are made, of course, on a survey of conditions in the U.S.A., but can we in Canada fail to take cognisance of them knowing how applicable they are to our own Dominion problems?

With these trends so clearly before us, the questions is "What are we prepared to do about pharmacy?" It seems that the whole field might be covered by a well planned public relations program. However, such a



program will require careful thought and must be such as to:

1. Gain the cooperation and support of all pharmacists and the whole allied drug industries.
2. That the pharmacist of today must be prepared for a careful analysis of his own activities and be further prepared to correct any harmful methods of conduct.
3. That the plan must include a careful survey of our educational standards and curriculum of study and that it make practical and wise suggestions for improvement.
4. That we enlist the cooperation of opinion moulders and group leaders throughout the country and supply them with facts and points of view about pharmacy of such interest as to be used in the press, over the radio, from the lecture platform, by motion picture or any other means of reaching the public.
5. That these opinion moulders and group leaders by furnished a well prepared brochure outlining the scope and purpose of such a public relations program.
6. That the program communicate to vocational guidance counsellors, such as high school principals and teachers, the facts and points of view on the vocation of pharmacy with a view to recruiting students in pharmacy and outlining its requirements and standards.
7. That care be exercised to have a well prepared and comprehensive plan on which to work and that nothing be allowed to misdirect this plan.

These are a few points which are part of a well planned public relations program. We must never forget that the entire drug industry of Canada today ranks very high among the other large industries of the Dominion. We cannot afford to have that industry hold an inferior position in public opinion, but on the other hand we should go great lengths to educate the public to a knowledge of the great contribution the industry is making to humanity.

The immense amount of research work which results in this contribution to humanity goes on quietly behind the scenes but the products of this research work are made available to the doctors, the hospitals and the people through our own dispensaries, and at this point the pharmacist has a very important part to play. If we can play our part well, I feel sure we will gain rightful recognition.

I wish only to refer to one more point which I think affects each one of us

individually and in which each one of us has an individual interest. Much has been said lately of the lack of recognition of pharmacy as a profession. Do we need to talk and to write about pharmacy as a profession and to constantly deplore the fact we are not so recognized? In doing this are we not assuming there is doubt as to our status?

Would it not be better to drop this negative attitude and instead, to so conduct ourselves and our daily lives, to so arrange the atmosphere in our respective places of business that there could be no doubt in the minds of anyone as to the nature and importance of our calling, and finally that we render such valuable service that we cannot fail to gain the recognition to which we are entitled? No efforts of ours could play a more important part in support of a public relations program.

There is just one thing more I wish to mention. During the meetings I have held across Canada I have tried during the time allotted, to bring you as fully as possible a picture of the problems and plans the C.Ph.A. are trying to work out for the druggists. Some of these meetings have lasted five hours, many of them 3-1/2 up to four hours. For such imposition I sincerely apologize, because of our desire to inform you of the many problems and indicate in some way our approach to these problems. I have been accused of asking all the questions and suggesting all the answers. It has been further suggested that there has not been sufficient time for discussion. With this I heartily agree and I further feel that it indicates a growing interest in our problems, if groups are anxious to remain together for longer periods of time to discuss these problems.

Following the dissolution of the B.C.I., retail pharmacy, always the power in provincial circles, was represented at C.Ph.A. by a committee. While the power was retail, there commenced to be an increased voice for educators, pharmacists practising in institutional settings (hospitals), pharmacists practising in industry and pharmacists practising with a government involvement, in pharmacy service.

It is interesting to note that not until the 1960's did either provincial or national pharmacy see fit to elect other than a retailer, to be its president.

At about this time in history, two events occurred which had an impact on whether Alberta pharmacy (pharmacists) were served by one organization or two or more.

Pharmacy had embarked on a study to try to determine the direction the profession should take in the next twenty-five years. The results of that study and its recommendations can be found in a text, "Pharmacy in a New Age". The seven members who constituted the "board" for that study were nomi-

nated to be considered to receive the Royal Bank of Canada award for service to the Nation.

The Chairman of the Board was Dr. John McDonald who, previously, had been President of the University of British Columbia. In the consideration of one of the issues under study was the fact that some provinces, including Alberta, had one organization which represented the protection of the public and at the same time the interest of the practitioners. The Chairman expressed some surprise at this and expressed the opinion that such an association was in a conflict of interest position. The Alberta appointee who represented administration, disagreed. He offered the opinion that men of good will can serve both the public and the profession. He offered to explore the attitude of the government of Alberta to see if this apparent conflict of interest was a concern. He approached a member of cabinet of his acquaintance and enquired as follows: "Does it disturb you that my associates in pharmacy approach you one day seeking amendments to the Act, which purports to represent the public interest, and perhaps, in the same week approaches you to seek a revised deal for remuneration for pharmacy services rendered and paid for by a government agency?" His answer was "no", and he enlarged upon that by saying that in his experience, those professions which represented both the public and the profession were more responsible than some who represented only the interest of the practitioners. When asked if that opinion reflected the views of his colleagues he said he believed that it did.

This information was duly noted at a subsequent meeting of the Board and no recommendation was made to suggest a change in provincial legislation.

The second happening occurred when a significant number of community pharmacists expressed dissatisfaction at there being no identifiable body to specifically deal with those matters specific to retail. Those in opposition again stated that the C.Ph.A. was primarily composed of retail pharmacists and should be the body politic to deal with those concerns styled "specific to retail pharmacy". At the 1977 Annual Meeting in Saskatoon, the then Western Vice-President, recommended a five year hoist to any notion of re-instituting a named group to attend to the interests and concerns of community pharmacy. This did not wash.

Thus was born the A.C.C.P., The Association of Canadian Community Pharmacists. It was to be funded by participating provinces quite apart from the per capita assessment remitted to C.Ph.A.

This organization lasted until 1987 when it was dissolved and its responsibilities returned to C.Ph.A.

Alberta pharmacists who represented this province over that period were:



back (l to r): Fred Boyle, Lynn Holroyd, Ted Richardson, Walt Boddy, Cliff Wright, Dean Garry Van Petten, Eli Ambrosie.

front (l to r): B. A. Ferbey, Larry Shipka, Joe Tredger, Stan Lissack, Don Cameron, Doreen Hagen, Jane Sheward, Elmer Bergh.

1977 to 1980 Elmer Bergh of Calgary

1981 to 1984 Cliff Wright, Vulcan

1985 & 1986 Ken Whiteley, Calgary

1987 Dissolution of A.C.C.P. and return to the body of C.Ph.A.

The main reason for its demise was the same as that experienced 40 and 50 years before viz: lack of funding. Some of the problems wrestled with in the ten years were:

1. Input into prescription drug packaging. There was a strong current of opinion in the industry that prescription drugs should be package, for example, into 12's, 40's and 100's. This was vehemently opposed and the A.C.C.P. won the day.
2. Drug tendering and product selection were issues encountered at each battle station. Readers of this book will probably observe in the year 2022 that the battle is still engaged.
3. The A.C.C.P. mounted a program to standardize returned goods policies.
4. Constant meetings were held to persuade industry to standardize price catalogues. This issue is probably not as hot today as it was.
5. Meetings were held to receive community pharmacy input into decisions regarding metric doses and package sizes.

6. The A.C.C.P. made a significant contribution by providing guidance in the area of insulin package color-coding.
7. Many, many meetings were held to discuss fee schedules, salaries, bonuses, fringe benefits and strategies for negotiating with third party paying agencies.
8. The lobby game was entered into with gusto when dealing with governments, wholesalers and the industry at large.

Has the wheel come full circle? Probably not. There may be suggestions raised, from time to time, advocating the emergence of an organization other than the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

In the meantime it is widely believed, both inside and outside of Alberta, and rightly so, that the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association has for eighty years, served the public well and continued to create a favourable climate for its practitioners.

One organization, or two, or more? The jury is still out.

*Thanks is extended to Elmer Bergh for the article on A.C.C.P.*

# 4

## The History of the Administration of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association

by Donald M. Cameron

THE FIRST REGISTRAR-TREASURER of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association was Donald W. MacDonald. His name first appears when he registered as a member on June 24, 1911, a date when many of the early notables are recorded as having registered. The register records his qualification only as N.W.T. which means that he was previously registered as a member of the North West Territories "Pharmaceutical Association" which came into being January 25, 1892.

Little is known of the contributions of Mr. MacDonald which must, surely, have been substantial in the formative years. The Annual Report of the Association for 1922 recorded the death of the first Registrar-Treasurer, D.W. MacDonald, of Edmonton. Mr. Lines was appointed to complete the term of office.

John H. Lines first registered as a member under the date of July 26, 1911, also with qualification of N.W.T. Mr. Lines was Registrar-Treasurer from his interim appointment in 1922 to the Annual Meeting in Edmonton in June of 1926 when he resigned and was replaced by Matthew R. Maybank of Olds.

M.R. Maybank registered with the qualification, N.W.T., but it is recorded in the 50 year A.Ph.A. history book that he came to Innisfail in 1902 and there qualified for this Territory Certification which he received in 1905. Matthew R. (better known as "Matt") Maybank was Registrar-Treasurer through the turbulent final years of the exciting 20's and the distressing years of the great depression of 1929 through to and including the early years of World War II.

Matt Maybank was a man of more than considerable charm and ability. He was never backward in expressing his opinion which, incidently, was usually right. J.C. Penney of the famous Penney chain of department stores in the United States used to say, "if you are right 51% of the time you are batting with the best leaders in industry".

While attending to the duties of Registrar-Treasurer, Matt Maybank owned and operated Maybank's Drug Store in Olds and was not only a dominant force for good in pharmacy circles, but was a leader in town politics, church and sporting activities.

It was a great satisfaction to him to see his son, Ralph receive his B.Sc. in pharmacy and "take over" the load of Maybank's Drug Store. Matt's grandson, Gerry, then owned and operated Maybank's Drug Store in Olds, although it was no longer located on Railway Avenue as it was for so many years. It was sold in 1991 and, consequently failed to reach the century mark.

Failing health required Matt Maybank to relinquish the reins of Registrar-Treasurer in 1939. He died October 17, 1942.

Matt Maybank was followed as Registrar-Treasurer by Victor Emanuel Hessel who, also, operated a drug store in Okotoks in addition to his administrative pharmacy duties. He served as Registrar-Treasurer from 1940 to 1943. "Vic Hessel joined the Association, as a member on October 20, 1914 listing as his qualification "Ontario".

During the late twenties and through the nineteen thirties the influence of "the front store" began to assert its importance. We read of the beginning of the P.A.T.A. (Proprietary Articles Trade Association) and the faltering support afforded by some regions in Canada, including Alberta. In addition to these and associated problems the dreaded expression of "price cutting" commenced to be heard. Yes - boys and girls - price cutting was not unknown as long as fifty years ago - and more.

In 1943 there was established an organization to be known as the Board of Commercial Interests and its aims and objects were enthusiastically embraced by the Alberta Association. The history of our 50th year records that, "an office was opened in Toronto with Vic E. Hessel as manager". Under his guidance, the Board continued to serve a useful purpose for a number of years. After his retirement Vic Hessel continued to live in his native Ontario where he died at an advanced age. Vic Hessel is an Honourary Life Member of the Association.

Clarence Watson Pickup succeeded as Registrar-Treasurer in 1943. He registered under the date of February 21, 1921 and his qualifications were listed as University of Alberta, University of Southern California, and resolution of Council. Presumably this means that his accumulated accomplishments in pharmacy at two institutions of learning prompted the Council of the day to agree that his qualifications were "as good as or better than Alberta had to offer at that time" or so read the requirements for years and years and years.

Clarence Watson Pickup had practised pharmacy in a number of Southern Alberta communities; (the records mention Lethbridge, Cardston, Royalties and Barons). It is an entry on the page of time that many small communities



Retiring Registrar C.W. Pickup hands over the keys to D.M. Cameron, newly appointed Registrar as F.G. McAdam looks on.

which once boasted a drug store, a doctor and some kind of "hospital" no longer have a drug store, a doctor, or a hospital and all too frequently too few people to make any of the above mentioned practises viable.

Mr. Pickup was the first Registrar-Treasurer to have that office as his sole practice of pharmacy; no longer was the position a part-time one operated in conjunction with the co-incident operation of a pharmacy.

The Association, administratively, had "come of age". Spacious, (by standards of those days), offices were rented in the Ingram Block on eighth avenue in Calgary, and in a sense Alberta pharmacy had its first home.

Mr. Pickup was a gentleman and a scholar. He was also taciturn and "scared the hell" out of a lot of apprentices and would-be apprentices. He helped to guide the Association through a white-water period in its history when there was a threat to turn out all self-governing professions and make them lackies of a government ministry or agency.

Mr. Pickup had a son Howard, also a pharmacist, who operated a pharmacy in Nordegg (successor to Harmon Allan Shipley) from whence he moved to open the first pharmacy in a brand new town, spawned by oil and named Drayton Valley.

Mr. Pickup resigned as Registrar in 1957 because of failing health and though he practised in a limited relief role his health continued to deteriorate. He died in Calgary, November 25, 1962.

Mr. Pickup was succeeded by Donald M. Cameron, who served as Registrar-Treasurer from October 1, 1957 to September 30, 1982 – exactly 25 years.



Mr. Cameron was born and received his public and high school education at Bowden, Alberta and thus became the first native Albertan Registrar-Treasurer. He first became a fan of pharmacy when the Bowden Drug Store was owned by Florence P. McNab (widow of Peter W. McNab) and "grew up" under the influence of Muriel I. McNab (Johnston). In the years when Muriel was studying at the University he came under the influence of such notables as Gordon Ramsay, Ronnie Monilaws, Horace Robert "H.R." Steeves and J. Sinnott McDonald.

Donald Cameron served his three years of apprenticeship with Russ Steele of Edmonton, Harold Killick of Rocky Mountain House and James W. (Jimmy) Morris of Edmonton.

In 1940 he married Muriel Durrant and in 1941 joined the R.C.A.F. in the then "hush hush" science of RADAR. Following his service career Mr. Cameron entered the University of Alberta in October 1945 and graduated with a B.Sc. in pharmacy in 1948.

The Cameron's spent one year in Camrose and then purchased Lang's Drug Store in Daysland which they owned and operated for eight years.

Mr. Cameron was elected to Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1954 and served as President in 1956-57. In fact he commenced the Annual Meeting in 1957 as President and was Registrar-Treasurer when the meeting was adjourned.

In addition to the appointment he inherited F.G. "Mac" McAdam, the Inspector and they were close friends until "Mac's" death in retirement in Vancouver. "Mac" McAdam had served in the R.C.M.P. for 24-1/2 years and had been a pioneer in the "Mountie Drug Squad", a police function we take for granted in contemporary times.

The first five years with the Association were spent at the office on 5th Avenue East in Calgary. Times were changing. Because of the location of the University and the increasing involvement with government and, the opportunity to move in with the administrative offices of medicine and dentistry, the decision was made to move the offices of the Association to Edmonton where the address became 301 CMA Alberta House and remained so for 18 years.

Changes came thick and fast.

The difficult transition from pricing prescriptions at "list" to "list plus a fee" to "cost plus a fee" was encompassed but what a struggle!

An attempt was made to restrict majority ownership of pharmacies to pharmacists, it was "oh so close" in 1964 when the biggest flood (of protests) since Noah, caused the Act to be hoisted to 1965 and pharmacy settled for "The Pharmacy License".

Coincidentally, pharmacy, had to prepare a brief for the "Restrictive Trade



C.M.A. Alberta House  
where A.Ph.A. had its  
offices 1962 to 1980.

Practices" Committee (a resounding success) and one for the Royal Commission on Health Services (Hall Commission) not quite so successful for any of the health professions.

In the meantime, government was daily becoming a presence in pharmacy. At this time (1965) the position of Assistant Registrar was created and the appointee was Walter L. Boddy, a Saskatchewan native who received his public and high school education in Thorsby, Alberta. His education, like many others, was interrupted to serve 5 years with the First Canadian Survey Regiment (artillery), serving in Britain, Italy and Holland.

Walter graduated with a B.Sc. in pharmacy in 1949 and joined Liggett's (succeeded by Tamblyn's) and then served a number of years as Health Supplies Officer in Emergency Health Services. From this position he was lured back into pharmacy where he performed administratively in an admirable degree until his retirement at the end of 1984.

Innumerable new challenges faced the profession. Hospital pharmacy had come of age and Walt was hospital pharmacy liaison officer to the Council. Perhaps his greatest challenge came with the birth, infant nurture and adolescence of a creature of government known as AADL (Alberta Aids to Daily Living) and the responsibilities kept getting more and more and MORE.

The Council of the day decided to create the post of Administrative Assistant and the first appointee was Eli Ambrosie, an Alberta boy educated at Andrew and at the University of Alberta where he received a B.Sc. in 1955. Eli served for many years with Edmonton based Tamblyn stores and it was from Bonnie Doon that he "graduated" to A.Ph.A. administration.

Mr. Ambrosie inherited the administrative mantle for the long, arduous and yes, often heated battles to change the moss-covered institution called "apprenticeship"; now known by the more sophisticated appellation of

The Office Staff has a Party.  
clockwise (from lower left): Louise  
Sharren, Agnes Loy, Eli Ambrosie,  
Larry Shipka, Jackie Loy, Jeannie  
Chaney, Tammy Gaudet.



interneship. He also was given the "plum" to develop (with Committee and Council's help) a province wide computer application for pharmacy. It is a matter of pride that he and his associates did so; it is a matter of regret that the principle could not be sold to some pharmacists, many physicians and most politicians.

In the early years of this burgeoning administrative load it became necessary to audit accounts, rendered by pharmacies, on behalf of several agencies. The requirements became so demanding that in 1977 the Council opted to establish the position of Auditor-Inspector, a full time responsibility. The first appointee was Larry Shipka, an Alberta boy from Smoky Lake who received his B.Sc. from the University of Alberta in 1964. It is to Larry's great credit that he and others who have joined in this heavy responsibility have retained the utmost respect of the agencies who pay for the service and the respect of those who by the nature of the title must be audited, inspected and, if necessary, answer for any supposed or real transgressions.

Since the introduction of the Auditor-Inspector service, three other members have been appointed to the staff. Mrs. Olly Kochan is the first lady pharmacist to have been appointed to the staff serving initially as an Auditor-Inspector. She now functions in the capacity of Deputy Registrar. Olly is an Alberta graduate who has considerable experience in both retail and hospital pharmacy. She and Stu Bailey of Camrose (a U.B.C. and Alberta graduate) and Mrs. Louise Sharren, another Alberta graduate, have all been appointed since 1980.

In April of 1989 Marilyn Thornton, pharmacist, was appointed to the staff. November 1, 1990 Merv Blair was also appointed. In April of 1991 Victor Kalinka was appointed to staff. All are pharmacists who have key committee responsibilities, in addition to audit-inspection duties.

The depth chart lists Mr. Bailey, Mrs. Thornton, Mr. Blair and Mr. Kalinka as Assistant Registrars.



Convention Registration completed. Jackie Loy and Shirley Howrish.

In addition to the specific duties alluded to, all members of staff serve as resource personnel to several important committees. At least two activities of note, in addition to the brief summary which precedes, deserve further mention.

In 1975 the Council and the administration were able to secure "Mandatory Continuing Education", the first province in Canada to do so. The concept is distrusted, despised and denigrated by a few but welcomed and entered into with spirit and resolve by the overwhelming majority. A note of thanks goes to Deans Huston, Van Petten, Moskalyk, Bachynsky; also many (nearly all) members of the Pharmacy Faculty and other faculties and the unflagging zeal of Division Director, Mrs. Doreen Zinyk who, have helped to make continuing Education go; almost to the point of being active (unpaid) members of the administration.

In the 1970's (also) legislation and supportive regulation was achieved by Council and the administration to control professional advertising. Time and non-pharmacist influence may erode this professional adjunct to ethics but most may take great pride in the fact that advertising, as it relates to pharmacy in Alberta, is probably the most professional on the North American continent.

Mr. Cameron retired in 1982; Mr. Boddy in 1984. Mr. Boddy chose not to vie for the position of Registrar-Treasurer as he had but two years to retirement.

Upon Mr. Cameron's retirement, applications were invited for his replacement by a Committee of eight members.

The successful candidate was Larry J. Shipka. He remained in the position for eight years during, most of which, his daily (and nightly) duty was to re-write the Act, adjust, re-adjust, alter, amend, re-present and repeat all of the



The Administrative Staff of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1992.

front row (l to r): Olly Kochan, Deputy Registrar; Greg Eberhart, Registrar-Treasurer; Marilyn Thornton, Assistant Registrar (Professional Services)

back row (l to r): Merv Blair, Assistant Registrar (Inspections); Brian Carter, Special Projects Manager; Vic Kalinka, Assistant Registrar (Membership)

missing: Stu Bailey, Assistant Registrar (Inspections)

foregoing to a series of Legislative Committees. He did not survive the ordeal to see the Act promulgated but left the Association's employ for the safer pursuit of "Pharmaceutical Consultant".

The Act is now promulgated and, certainly, Mr. Shipka deserves much of the credit.

Upon Mr. Shipka's decision to retire, he was replaced by Gregory E. Eberhart. Mr. Eberhart graduated from the University of Alberta in 1979. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Science, in Pharmacy. After graduation he was employed with Mr. Peter Hodgson of Stettler and later with Mr. George Kondrat of Red Deer. At the time of his appointment, as Registrar-Treasurer, he was the Manager of London Drugs of Red Deer.

Greg, in concert with his Council, Committees and associates in the health professions, is finding that there is great pressure in a world where demands upon the health care system are going "head to head" with an increasingly hard time to find the dollars needed.

Gregory Eberhart became the eighth member to serve the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association as Registrar-Treasurer in its eighty-one year history.

## Pioneer Alberta Pharmacists

by J. K. Penley

IT MAY BE of interest to examine and either compare or contrast the pharmaceutical careers of a few of the first pharmacists who came to what is now Alberta, they being Egerton Walton, John D.Higinbotham, Samuel W.Trott, Samuel Shaw and Messrs Teetzel and Duncan and Wilson. Some of these men came to practise pharmacy but one, at least, had no such intention, another may have used his profession to assess the area for another venture and for adventure. Yet another was sent here by orders. One or two may not even have been pharmacists.

Samuel Shaw, with his wife and nine children, travelled to the end of rail at Swift Current then trekked overland to settle south of Calgary beside Fish Creek near what later became Midnapore. Mr.Shaw had few neighbors in that year of 1883 but he optimistically prepared for many as he had brought with him 27 tons of machinery for his proposed woollen mill. This English Chemist never did practise pharmacy in Alberta but we can say he was one of the first pharmacists to arrive and that he held membership in the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association from its formation in 1911 until his death in 1919.

Egerton Walton had graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1868 but worked at several other jobs as well as pharmacy before setting out for the North West Territories. He arrived in Medicine Hat, probably in the early spring of 1884. The C.P.R. trains had arrived the previous year. Walton opened his drug store in a tent until he built his Walton's Drug Store on South Railway St.. His family joined him soon after. The ambitious 36 year old opened a second drug store in Lethbridge on Dec.1st 1885 and called it Apothecaries Hall. It was just as well he had done so as on Nov.26 1885 his Medicine Hat store was destroyed by fire. He rebuilt in Medicine Hat where he decided to reside and sold the Lethbridge business.

Tragedy visited the Walton family in 1891 when their 10 year old son lost his way in a blizzard and died of exposure.



Egerton J. R. Walton

Egerton Walton left pharmacy in 1892 and became a rancher with the brand "EW". He lived in or near Medicine Hat for many years and became a well known "old-timer" of the city.

On May 31 1884, a four-in-hand stage coach pulled into Fort MacLeod from Calgary and out stepped a tall, athletic looking youth of nineteen years. Packed in his luggage was a diploma from the Ontario College of Pharmacy. The young man was John D. Higinbotham. The contributions that this ambitious young man would make as a citizen of Southern Alberta would be astounding. John, or "J.D." as some called him, had come west to manage the drug store owned by Dr. G.A. Kennedy. It was located in a recently vacated building in the N.W.M.P. post and had been occupied, until then, by Inspector F.J. Dickens, son of the famous novelist Charles Dickens.

The first stock for the pharmacy was brought by Higinbotham by rail as far as Calgary then transported to Fort MacLeod by squealing Red River carts. Some containers bearing alcohol had been punctured by knives and arrived empty. John established his own drug store in Fort MacLeod 29 August 1884, but by 7 Oct. 1885 had moved to Lethbridge where he had bought the "Apothecaries Hall" from Egerton Walton.

John D. Higinbotham stayed with pharmacy until he retired in 1929, 45 years later, at age 64 years. As a citizen of Lethbridge, Higinbotham became its first Postmaster and sold the first lots on the townsite and established the first



John D. Higinbotham

Sunday School and was its superintendent for over 37 years. He was a Juvenile Commissioner for Alberta, a Coroner, a Senator of the University of Alberta, a Governor of Alberta Ladies College, Chairman of the School Board, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, President of the Citizens League and a director of the Y.M.C.A.. One can say that he was indeed a scholar, a gentleman, an author and a poet, having published articles, books and several poems. He was active in sports and a supporter of the arts. J.D. was an active Mason and served as District Deputy Grand Master of Alberta while still in his twenties. This pharmacist left his mark on Alberta pharmacy as well. He was active in forming the new Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, was on its first council and was elected its first president. His licence, under the new act, was given the number "one", a distinct honour.

The N.W.M.P. post at Fort MacLeod provided medical care by a physician and there was a position filled by the hospital sergeant. In a letter to his parents in Nov. 1884, J.D.Higinbotham reported "young Wilson, a druggist who passed at the same time I did, has just been taken on by the police at \$1.50 a day. He worked in Detroit for Parke-Davis and Co." One can wonder about the career of this young sergeant/pharmacist and if he pursued a pharmaceutical career and if so, where. No doubt he was involved, only months after his arrival, with the police activities in quelling the North West Rebellion.

Samuel W. Trott probably had no great financial need to open a drug store





Samuel W. Trott

in the small new town of Calgary. He was well established in his own pharmacy in Winnipeg, had taken on a partner and as Trott and Mitchell Chemists, operated a retail and wholesale business there. There is other evidence that he was a fairly wealthy young bachelor when he took a C.P.R. train west in 1883 and examined the Territory as far west as Morley and certainly in Calgary where he returned in the spring of 1884. Here he opened Calgary's first retail drug store not operated by a physician.

An examination of his life style would indicate that his drug store may have been a base for income while he pursued an outdoors, sportsman's life and also as a springboard into a ranching career. Prior to settling down to practise his profession after graduating from O.C.P., Trott joined a survey party led by Frank Moberly and explored vast land areas which took them through Edmonton and Jasper and west. Thus it is not surprising to learn that after settling in Calgary, his love of the outdoors is shown by reports that he paddled from Morley to Calgary in eleven hours; his hunting dog was entered in a N.W.T. competition; that he was vice-president of the Rod and Gun Club; that he shot a large lynx; that his fishing basket contained 32 trout. Trott's drug store advertisements also emphasised sporting goods and one such showed he had a sense of humour as he ran the message upside down for several weeks. He employed pharmacists, including H. Duncan and Wendell MacLean, perhaps to secure freedom from the store. In 1888 he sold the business to MacLean and became a rancher using the brand of a lazy S over T.

Rancher Trott married at age 41. Tragedy struck when their 6 month old son died of 'cholera infantum' and again a few months later when, in Nov.1891, Trott caught a 'cold' and within a few days died of "congestion of the lungs". Unfortunately in those days, Trott's, nor any pharmacy, had any effective medicines which could help baby Bruce or father Samuel.

Silver City had a brief but vigorous life. Reports of silver being mined beside Castle Mountain attracted many hopefuls and for a brief time in late 1883 and early 1884 a good sized town sprang up with a population larger than Calgary's. Teetzel and Duncan opened their drug store there and advertised the business. We have not yet been able to identify these men. We do not even know if they were pharmacists as at that time anyone could open a "drug store" in the North West Territories. The story of these two men and their business remains in the shadow of Castle Mountain.

Dr. R.G. Brett may or may not have been a pharmacist but at the Manitoba Medical College he had been the professor of Materia Medica and other subjects. Brett had arrived in Calgary on the first C.P.R. construction train, Aug 14,1883 and soon after located in Banff. He too opened a drug store there but we do not have the date. Pharmacist Peter Ross dispensed in Brett's pharmacy in 1884 and is thought to have been the first pharmacist in Banff.

It may not be important now to know which of the above pharmacists or others was first to practise in Alberta but historians will always seek such answers.

Actually, in a sense, none of them were. Walton, Trott and Higinbotham all found a drug store or Medical Hall when they arrived in their part of Alberta. At Medicine Hat, Drs. Butcher and Haig had opened a drug store in conjunction with the medical office. In Calgary, Dr. Andrew Henderson had his Apothecaries Hall almost a year before Trott opened. In Fort MacLeod, Dr. Kennedy had preceded Higinbotham by a month to open his drug store. Prior to any of these, Dr. H.C. Wilson had opened a drug store in Edmonton in 1882. The matter is further complicated by the fact that Drs. Wilson and Henderson were also thought to be pharmacists. However both physicians had their pharmacies operating as an adjunct to their medical practice and had them staffed by non-pharmacists.

Thus if we consider only those pharmacies opened and operated by pharmacists, whose sole interest was pharmacy, we could say that if Teetzel or Duncan could be identified as pharmacists, one or both of them might be our candidate. But lacking that proof, Egerton Walton seems to be our man followed closely by either Higinbotham or Trott. Actually, prior to Alberta being created as a province, one of the latter two could have been considered as first because, in their day, Medicine Hat was outside of the boundary of the Alberta Territory.

# Pharmacy Education In Alberta

by Donald M. Cameron

Education is such an important and diverse segment in the history of pharmacy that the editors have elected to present it in four parts, viz:

- (a) The University of Alberta
- (b) The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada
- (c) Continuing Education
- (d) Pharmacy Technicians

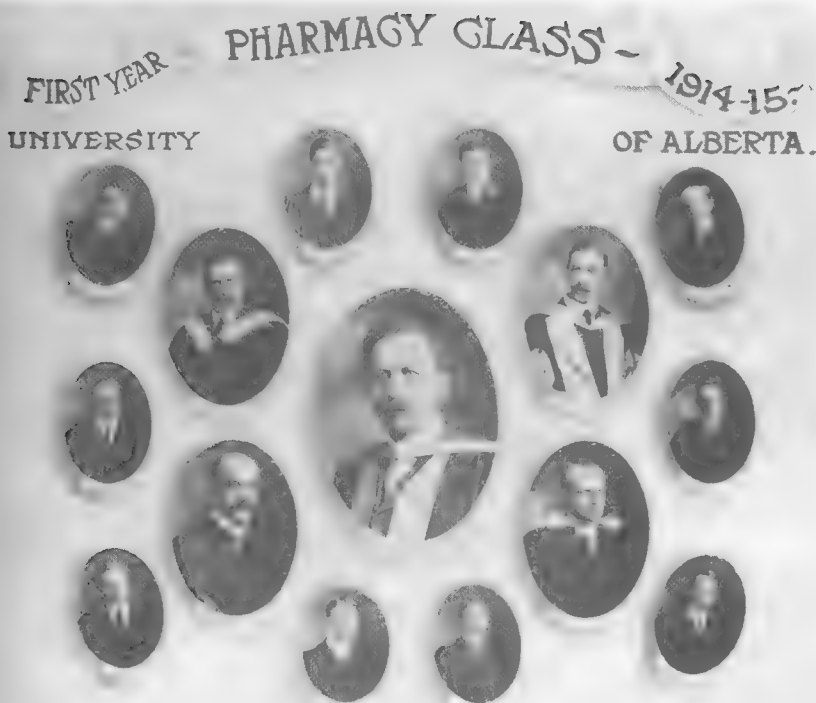
The first names in the register of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association showed, as the authority to register, such initials as N.W.T. meaning the "North West Territories", or perhaps O.C.P. meaning the "Ontario College of Pharmacy", or other. There was no educational route for an Albertan to join his own provincial association. It was imperative, therefore, that wheels be set in motion to train those who wished to become pharmacists.

The University of Alberta opened its doors September 23, 1908 with one faculty, viz: Arts and Science.

In 1912 the Association began negotiations to establish a course in Pharmacy. On April 3, 1914, approval was granted for the establishment of a Department of Pharmacy under the Faculty of Medicine. Classes were offered in October, 1915 in the Arts Building which formally opened at that time. There were eleven students. Tuition was \$100 per year. With the outbreak of W.W. I, 438 alumni, staff and students joined the Armed Services — 82 did not return.

The 1915-16 calendar was the first to list the School of Pharmacy.

In those early years practical experience was considered to be of vital importance. The By-laws of the Act required a candidate to be of 14 years of age, and to have completed Grade 10. Apprenticeship was three years to be served before entering the University. Two routes were offered, one leading to a diploma and the other to the degree of Phm. B. This, meaning Bachelor of Pharmacy, was undoubtedly, borrowed from Ontario.



First year courses included chemistry, botany, pharmacy, materia medica, pharmacology and toxicology. Physics and latin were also required but only for the Phm.B.

A graduate had to be 19 years of age to become registered and was required to undergo a successful examination to be licensed.

Dr. Moshier of the Physiology Department was made responsible for the supervision and teaching of pharmacy and materia medica. For this, he was paid \$750 per year. Moshier joined the Armed Forces taking many medical and pharmacy students with him.

Halley Hamilton Gaetz of Red Deer was appointed to succeed Moshier.

The Association continued its efforts to establish pharmacy as an independent, self-regulating discipline. To reinforce its belief, the Association, on being granted a laboratory for pharmacy students only, spent \$2,000 to equip the lab. It was described by Dr. Tory as the "best pharmaceutical laboratory in Canada".

In 1917, the Pharmacy Department was elevated to that of a "school" under the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Pharmacy Act of 1918 phased out the one-year diploma course and made a two year Licentiate course the requirement.



Professor H. H. Gaetz

Professor Gaetz persuaded the General Faculty Council to drop the Phm.B. and replace it with a four year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. In 1918 the age limit to embark upon apprenticeship was raised to 15 years and a minimum of one year apprenticeship was required. The diploma course required three years of apprenticeship; the degree course required only one year.

In 1918 the School of Pharmacy had 33 students, and furnishings and equipment valued at \$61.75. The Association voted \$600 per year to augment the professor's salary, and in 1919 endowed the school with \$12,000 "to continue forever the administration of this school at the highest standards of proficiency". Gaetz assumed the title of Director and in the 1919-20 academic year received \$1800.

Minutes of the Senate Meeting of October 28, 1920 reported a request from the Association to the University to award some form of a diploma to the licentiates even though they had no degree. Dr. Tory recommended it and the University agreed.

In May 1921 four degree students convoked. From September 1919 until 1945 the Licentiate course remained the minimum to practise pharmacy. An exception was made for W.W. II students. The degree students who graduated in 1921 were the first B.Sc. students in the British Empire.

In 1921 the Pharmacy Club began.

The University was now the fifth largest in Canada with over 1200 students.



The first pharmacy students in the British Empire to receive a Bachelor of Science degree. Class of 1921, University of Alberta. From left to right: A. W. Matthews, G. V. Holmes, H. R. Gaetz.

In 1922 a plea was made by a Britisher to have uniform standards of education and reciprocity over the empire.

In 1922 Professor Gaetz passed away, unexpectedly, at the age of 56. Twenty years later, at the Alumni Luncheon of the Association, the Rev. W.G. Wilson, Minister of Robertson United Church, unveiled a plaque in memory of Prof. Gaetz. This plaque, along with a portrait, is currently mounted on the wall outside the Faculty main office. Had Prof. Gaetz lived to the end of his term, he was to have been appointed President of the University in 1923.

Captain F.A. Stewart-Dunn, who had been a lecturer since his return from military service, was appointed Director. A. Whitney Matthews joined the school in 1923 and in 1941 became the first Canadian Pharmacy Professor to be granted the Ph.D. (University of Florida).

The graduating class of 1925 numbered eleven – all male.

In 1928, R.E. Harrison was named to the Board of Examiners in Pharmacy at the University.

The great depression of the 30's brought a slow down to most everything; budgets dropped and new buildings could not be considered.

After September 1, 1934, no one could register as an apprentice without a full Grade 12 standing. The School continued to offer the licentiate course but no one could enter the second and final year unless he had completed the three year apprenticeship.

M.J. Huston was a member of the 1937 graduating class. F.A. Stewart-Dunn recommended the formation of an Alumni Association and in August of the following year, an organization meeting was held.

In 1938-39 jurisdiction over degree students was transferred from the



F. A. Stewart-Dunn



Dr. A. W. Matthews

Faculty of Arts and Science to the Faculty of Medicine.

In 1939-40 instructional fees were \$125 per session for the first year and \$150 for the second and third.

By 1941 the licentiate course and the three year B.Sc. program required three years of registered apprenticeship before entrance.

The School celebrated its 25th Anniversary. By this time, 408 students had graduated, 72 (22 women) with the B.Sc. degree, and 336 (37 women) with the Diploma of Pharmaceutical Chemist. Apprenticeship was reduced to two years.

Col. Dunn was retired and M.J. Huston was appointed to the staff, while Dr. A.W. Matthews became Director.

In 1944 the McDermid Drug Co. of Calgary established an annual prize to a deserving student in memory of N.I. McDermid. It marked the first donation by a graduate of Alberta, K.B. McDermid, son of Neil McDermid.

A new A.Ph.A. Act was passed April 6, 1945 and the term apprentice was replaced by interne.

The apprenticeship requirement was again adjusted. A candidate could enter the University of Alberta, upon successful completion of the high school requirement, and the 24-month internship could be served before or between semesters, or after completion of the University requirement, but no registration until complete. A graduate must be 21 years of age to register as a pharmacist.

With the end of W.W. II, the University underwent a rapid expansion. Nearly 5000 students registered in the 1947-48 year. In the 1945-46 period, 74 students were enrolled in pharmacy, of whom 31 were returned service personnel.



Dr. M. J. Huston

Dr. Matthews resigned in 1946 to join the Rexall Drug Co. Dr. M.J. Huston became Director. In September 1946 B.E. Reidel and J.R. Murray joined the staff as lecturers.

In 1946-47 three students were working toward an M.Sc. degree. The first two graduated were Gordon Groves, and Les Chatten who later joined the staff as a Ph.D. Gordon Myers was working toward the M.Sc. degree.

The bent toward research, dreamed of and encouraged by Dr. M.J. Huston, was on the march.

The diploma course was phased out. There were no candidates in the 1948-49 year.

Following an expenditure of \$100,000 the School took up residence on the third floor of the Medical Building. Formal ceremonies were held September 23, 1949.

The year 1950 became an important milestone in the history of pharmacy at the University when the School of Pharmacy was granted autonomy of internal administration.

In 1951 Andrew Stewart became University President. Staff members Reidel, Murray and Anderson were continuing their careers toward a Ph.D. degree.

By 1953-54 the internship requirements were reduced to 12 months. Comprehensive oral internship examinations were held for all students in the graduating class.

Bob Edgar became the first pharmacy student to be elected President of the Student's Union.

Lecturers by staff of the school helped as a forerunner to mandatory continuing education.

Faculty status was granted in 1955.



Enrollment was the highest in history in the 1957-58 year; approximately one third of the class were females. The demand for graduates greatly exceeded the supply.

In 1958-59 Dr. J.R. Murray left the Faculty to head up the pharmacy program at the University of Manitoba.

In 1959 Walter M. Johns became President of the University. The student body had reached 17,000.

In 1960-61 approval was given for the inauguration of an optional fourth year, leading to an honors pharmacy degree. The three year degree course continued to be the minimum requirement for licensure.

Research activity continued at a high level. Kenneth M. James completed his research under the guidance of Dr. B.E. Reidel, and he became the first pharmacy student to receive a Ph.D. degree from a Canadian school.

Dr. Reidel was appointed Executive Assistant to the Vice-President of the University, but continued his lecture duties on a half-time basis. Dr. A.J. Anderson returned to the staff with the degree of Ph.D.

In 1961-62 enrollment maintained a high level with 201 students; 42% of these were women. There were 8 graduate students maintaining Alberta's lead as a research centre. One of the Ph.D. candidates was Richard E. Moskalyk.

Attendance records were again broken in 1963-64 with an enrollment of 222 students (47% women).

The optional fourth year was made available for the first time but enrollment was disappointing. The four year course resulted in a degree with honors or major in the area of specialization. At the fall convocation the second Ph.D. in pharmacy, in Canada, was awarded to Sukumaron Nayar who had conducted research under Dr. Palmer.

In the 1964-65 session the pharmacy enrollment numbered 217 students, four of whom were in the fourth year of the program. For the first time women (116) outnumbered men (101).

The first joint Continuing Education program was held in 1964 with involvement by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, the University of Alberta Department of Extension and the Faculty of Pharmacy.

In 1965-66 the Faculty obtained approval for the discontinuance of the three year degree program.

In the 1966-67 term the three year degree was officially replaced by the four year Bachelor of Science degree program.

The increase in graduate students became more pronounced. There were 28 of these, substantially more than any other College in Canada.

The Faculty was renamed in 1968 to become the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Also, in 1968 Dr. Bernard Reidel left the Faculty to become the Dean

at the University of British Columbia.

In 1969-70 internship requirements were reduced from 12 months to 96 hours to be served during the final year of study. The project was part of a planned training program, with examinations, under the control of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

Dr. M.J. Huston became President of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and Dr. Max Wyman became President of the University of Alberta.

The 1960's saw a substantial turnover of Faculty personnel.

Several new buildings were erected on campus. Dr. Gunning became President of the University of Alberta.

In 1972 the Faculty hosted the first Radiopharmacy conference in Canada. The old "Medical Building" was renamed the Dentistry/Pharmacy Centre.

The Edmonton Radiopharmaceutical Centre, established in 1975 and located in the Faculty, represented the first multi-hospital service facility on the continent.

The Department of Continuing Pharmacy Education was established in the Faculty in cooperation with the Association. In the same year the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act was amended so that continuing education accreditation became mandatory for continuing licensure.

The official opening of the Faculty's \$250,000 nuclear reactor (Slowpoke II) an abbreviation for Safe, Low Power, Critical, Experiment was celebrated April 22, 1978.

The Faculty was the first to initiate a Graduate Program in Radiopharmacy at the Ph.D. level.

Dean Huston retired after 32 years of association, perhaps the longest of any Faculty member and certainly as long as any Dean had ever served.

Dr. Garry Van Petten was appointed to replace Dean Huston. He served until his untimely death in 1980.

In 1986 Dr. Myron Horowitz became President of the University and continued until 1989 when replaced by the incumbent Dr. Paul Davenport.

Dr. Gordon Myers was appointed Acting Dean of the Faculty. He served until 1981 when Dr. John Bachynsky was appointed Dean.

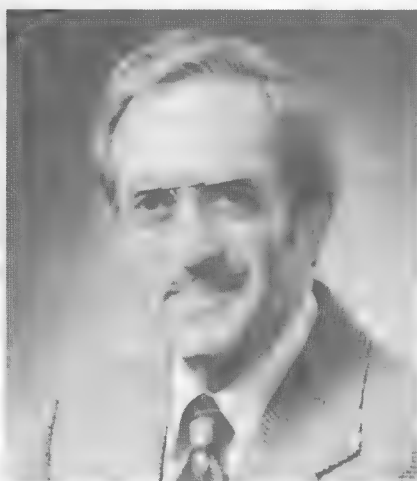
In 1985 the internship program, seemingly always under study and review, was increased from 96 to 500 hours. It was possible to serve 200 hours after the second year and 200 after the third year and 100 hours after completion of the fourth year.

In 1989 Dr. Bachynsky completed his term as Dean and was replaced by Dr. Richard E. Moskalyk.

The Faculty was prepared to accept 110 students per year. Commencing with the 1989-90 year, students entering the Faculty must have completed at least one year of Science in a prescribed pre-pharmacy program making the



Dr. Garry VanPetten



Dr. Gordon Myers

total degree program five years in duration.

The four plus one years was approved by the General Faculty Council.

The number of applicants was down from the previous year largely, because fewer applicants from high school chose to apply.

The male-female ratio was at 50:50.

In June, 1989 the Faculty launched its 75th Anniversary Fund Raising Campaign with a goal of 2.8 million dollars.

Dr. M.J. Huston, Dean Emeritus wrote a special publication, "Prescription for Humour" and devoted all proceeds for the Faculty's Fund Raising Campaign.

The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association sponsored a new 75th Anniversary Scholarship in recognition of the Faculty's 75th Anniversary.

At a special convocation, Honorary Degrees were awarded to Dr. Bernard E. Riedel and Dr. Gordon E. Myers.

In honour of the occasion Merck-Frosst gave \$250,000 toward a chair in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology.

The high level of post graduate activity continued.

In May 1989, the Faculty established a Special Status Entry for Native students. Alberta has not yet graduated a Native student in its 75 year history.

Dr. L.I. Wiebe returned to the Faculty after a year's leave of absence in Australia.

Alberta students continued to excel in P.E.B.C. examinations.

Alberta has continued its proven record as one of the leading Faculties in Canada. It would seem that this leadership role is destined to continue.



Dr. John Bachynsky



Dr. Richard E. Moskalyk



From left to right: M. J. Huston, J. R. Murray, D. Strilchuk.

**The Pharmacy Club. All work and no play...****The Pharmacy Song**

The Faculty of Pharmacy is the very best of all  
We don't run around like meds and engineers and brawl  
And when we graduate we'll have our picture on the wall  
Hurrah for Pharmacy

Glory, glory to the druggist  
Glory, glory to the druggist  
Glory, glory to the druggist  
Hurrah for Pharmacy

The Doctors write prescriptions and they're brought to us to fill  
Sometimes they're for ointments and other times for pills  
We fill them up with odds and ends so we can pay our bills  
Hurrah for Pharmacy

**Chorus**

The perfumes and the powders that we have are simply swell  
We learn to get a dollar for every dime we sell  
We gyp the public right and left and they like us just as well  
Hurrah for Pharmacy

**Chorus**

The lotions and the potions that we make are of the best  
They will cure a cold that's in the head or in the chest  
The sleeping powders that we make will give you lots of rest  
Hurrah for Pharmacy

**Chorus**

The B. P. is our bible and from it we get our rules  
We learn more from it than from all our Sunday schools  
The mortar and the spatula and the pestle are our tools  
Hurrah for Pharmacy

**Chorus**

– Anonymous

**Pharmacy Color. Cinnamon.**



next page, bottom: Pharmacy Club 1930-31  
 centre (clockwise from top): Prof. F. A. Stewart-Dunn, Hon. President; A. W. Matthews, Hon. Vice-President;  
 Sinnott MacDonald, Vice-Pres.; Bud Miller, Secy-Treas; Beatrice Anderson, President.  
 l to r (from top): Floyd Van Orsdall, Herb Anderson, C. K. French, Hilda Perraton-Crook, Vernon Neely, R. E. Fraser,  
 Bill Rook, W. Sereda, Bob Brearley, Art Lambert, Harold Killick, Robt. A. Cameron, Margaret Glover, Squdge Hodgins,  
 Pudgy Hodgins, Bert Coffin, A. W. Griswold, Isobel Kippen.



Short break from lectures, St. Joseph's 1941.

left to right: Tom Graham, Joe Sereda, Morris Hawkey, Ted Hart, Bill Masters, Betty Hambly, Ozzie Geehan, Verne Wellman, Mickey Jepson





The long and the short of it.  
Bea Snyder and Ralph Skitch,  
Pharmacy Club Party 1946.

### Pharmacy Yell

From the early 1920's year books:

Lotions potions fiat charte  
We know em all "Secundum Art"  
We are the spell binders  
We are the pill grinders  
Hydrolysing carbolizing olea  
Pharmacy! Pharmacy! U of A

In later years:

Lotions, potions, powders, pills,  
We are the guys that cure your ills,  
Fix you up and send you bills.  
Who are we?  
PHARMACY!



## **The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada: an Alberta perspective**

*by Rosemary A. Bacovsky, BSc(Pharm), MPharm., RPEBC, FASHP, FCSHP*

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada (PEBC) is a national, financially independent body that establishes pharmacist qualifications and provides national examinations and registration for pharmacists within Canada or from foreign countries. Its establishment on December 21, 1963 realized the dream of a national standard of pharmacy for Canada and the concept of reciprocity. Its history is presented, with emphasis on Alberta issues.

**The Dream Develops.** The history of PEBC really began in 1867 when the Canadian Pharmaceutical Society was created to promote a national pharmacy act, with the ultimate aim of one standard of qualification across Canada. The Canadian Pharmaceutical Society became the Ontario College of Pharmacy and later the Ontario College of Pharmacists. The national act never materialized. With the signing of the Quebec and Ontario Pharmacy Acts (1870 and 1871 respectively), pharmaceutical regulation, education, and legislation were designated to develop at the provincial level, resulting in a ever widening diversity of qualifications. In 1907, with the formation of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association (C.Ph.A.) the dream was strengthened. In advance of its actual formation, G.A. Burbidge of Nova Scotia proposed one of the objectives of the Association to be "to promote, if deemed desirable, making uniform the standards of examinations with possibly reciprocity of diplomas". In 1908, the C.Ph.A. Committee on Pharmaceutical Education recommended in favour of uniform standards of education and of qualifying examinations as well as reciprocity of registration. Fifteen years later in 1923, a motion was raised in favor of establishing a "Dominion Board of Examiners granting Dominion Registration". The motion would be made again a decade later.

John Creasy, current registrar of the PEBC, identified three key stumbling blocks that stopped the formation of this board at this time:

- 1) Academic standards were not equivalent across Canada. Standards varied from a two-year diploma course to a three-year university B.Sc. (with an optional fourth year available in Saskatchewan).
- 2) No accrediting body existed to maintain continuing high standards for pharmacy education.
- 3) There was little discussion between the provinces or between pharmacy groups, thus reinforcing a provincial, rather than national, outlook.

It would take 40 more years for the dream to start to materialize.

Educators also had begun to promote this dream. The deans of the university schools of pharmacy in the three prairie provinces held meetings over a few years commencing in 1917. Twenty-seven years later (1944) C.Ph.A. sponsored a meeting of the heads of the schools of pharmacy which resulted in the formation of the Canadian Conference of Pharmaceutical Faculties (CCPF). Within a few years uniform curricula and standards were achieved. The founding of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) in 1948 opened up new areas of practise for pharmacists and helped with the advancement of the profession.

The profession was still fragmented. The Hughes Report to the C.Ph.A. in 1951 requested the broadening of the scope of C.Ph.A. to have representation from pharmacists in government, industry, and hospitals be included in the Association. CC PF supported the report and C.Ph.A. accepted its recommendations in 1954. Hence, closer cooperation between pharmacists developed.

In 1954, C.Ph.A., responding to submissions from Ontario and British Columbia, formally requested that "CCPF study the formation of a Dominion Council of Pharmacists which would deal with the matter of reciprocity in every province". The CC PF committee, chaired by Dean Wesley Claude MacAulay of Saskatchewan, recommended the establishment of a national examining board of pharmacy, corresponding to similar ones in dentistry (National Dental Examining Board) and medicine (Medical Council of Canada). This report recognized the autonomy of the provincial licensing bodies, and recommended closer cooperation between CC PF and C.Ph.A. In 1957, an organizational committee was formed and given two mandates:

- a) to prepare a draft Act which would be presented to the federal government; and
- b) to obtain written approval from all the provinces.

A report and preliminary draft were presented at the C.Ph.A. meeting in Edmonton in 1958.

The draft act provided for a Board consisting, as it is currently constituted, of one member from each participating provincial licensing authority; one from CSHP; two from CC PF (now the Association of Faculties of Pharmacy of Canada - AFPC), at least one member to be bilingual; and ex officio, the President and the Secretary Manager (now the Executive Director) of C.Ph.A. The control of the Board rested with the licensing bodies in that the by-laws and regulations required a two-thirds majority of the representatives of these bodies and a majority of the Board for approval. Alberta was one of the first



Association of Western Colleges of Pharmacy.

front (l to r): M. J. Huston, Corrine Cram, Mary Bell, Miss Y. Harman, A. W. Matthews, G. W. MacAulay.

rear (l to r): B. Riedel, A. Anderson, K. James, W. Maday, J. A. Wood, G. Jeffrey, D. Stewart, R. Murray, D. Calvert, K. Moore, M. Nimie.

four provinces, along with CCPF and CSHP, to formally approve the report. It was soon obvious that PEBC would not get full approval from all 10 provinces – Quebec dissented. In February 1961, the Executive Committee of C.Ph.A. recommended that the Association should “formally seek the presentation to and passage through parliament of a private bill which would, in effect, give corporate entity to a national examining board”. In June, La College des pharmaciens du Quebec formally withdrew from C.Ph.A. citing one reason as the move to obtain legislation for such a board.

**The Dream Becomes Reality.** Bill S-15 was first introduced to the government on November 14, 1962 through the sponsorship of Senator J. Kinley, a pharmacist from Halifax. R. Mitchell, the member of parliament from Sudbury sponsored it in the House of Commons. Unfortunately, parliament was dissolved in February prior to the Bill being passed and royal assent given. On May 28, 1963, it was reintroduced as Bill S-7. Quebec’s opposition threatened the passage of the Bill. Finally a new Section 18 was added: “This Act shall not apply in any province unless the licensing body thereof has, by resolution requested such an application thereto.” Third Reading was approved in the Commons on December 17 and on December 19 the Senate passed the amended Bill. Royal Assent was granted on December 21, 1963. The Pharmacy

Examining Board of Canada was born!

The objectives of PEBC were clearly stated in Section 5 of the Act:

- a) to establish qualifications for pharmacists, acceptable to participating licensing bodies;
- b) to provide for fair and equitable examinations, for the issuance of certificates of qualification to, and for the registration of, applicants therefore; and
- c) to promote, with the consent of the appropriate licensing bodies, the enactment of such provincial legislation as may be necessary or desirable in order to supplement the provision of this Act.

The first meeting was held on February 18, 1964 in the Council Room of the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto and concluded two days later in the Royal York Hotel. The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association was represented by Donald Cameron. Dean F.N. Hughes was elected President and served for two years. D.M. Cameron served as President for the following two years.

**The Dream is Challenged.** PEBC was soon faced with three major challenges: the qualification for graduates to be a four year university degree program, the grandfathering clause, and the low participation in the early years.

The Board felt that the qualifications outlined in Section 5(a) needed to be four years in a university BSc program - the CCPF standard. As a result, pharmacists from Alberta and the Maritimes were not able to write the first PEBC exams in 1965 because of their three year programs. Alberta offered an optional fourth year in the 1963-64 session with the first graduate of the Alberta 4-year program convocating at the spring convocation of 1964. In 1965, two students qualified under the four year program followed by 12, 11, 13, and 18 graduates in 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969 respectively. The fall convocation of 1970 was set as the last date for completion of the Alberta 3-year program for any students in transit. Alberta graduates who completed the optional fourth year were given the opportunity to write the Board examinations in these transient years. Two students wrote the Board examinations in 1965 - one from the graduating class and one who had graduated earlier. Unfortunately, both were not successful. The next two to write in 1967, Lorna Patricia Richards and Linda Ann Wright, both 1967 U of A graduates, both passed the examination. Ms. Richards was the first registered by examination from the U of A on July 7, 1967 since she was registered with A.Ph.A. Ms. Wright had to become registered with A.Ph.A. prior to her name being added to the Board register on May 9, 1968.

In 1985, qualification changes allowed 3-year Canadian graduates admission to the qualifying examination.

Section 15 of the Act and 39 under By-law 17.1(c) permitted grandfathering and registration without examination. Donald M. Cameron, A.Ph.A.'s first appointee to the Board, was registered on February 20, 1964 under Section 15 of the Act (registration number 11). Dr. A. Whitney Matthews, a U of A graduate and who later became a PEBC Registrar-Treasurer was likewise registered on that date (registration number 15). Eight Alberta applicants were registered on the same date (May 22, 1985) under the new by-law adopted in 1985. To December 1990, 480 applicants from Alberta have been registered under Section 15.

Only twenty-five pharmacists wrote the first examination on May 31-June 3, 1965. The examination consisted of six written examinations and one practical examination: pharmaceuticals, pharmaceutical chemistry, pharmacology, pharmacognosy, pharmacy administration, basic sciences comprehensive, and compounding and dispensing (practical). As noted earlier, Alberta graduates were not able to write this first examination because of the 3-year degree. Overall participation remained low: 35, 22, and 34 in 1966, 1967, and 1968 respectively. This low participation was accredited to the provinces being slow in defining their acceptances or requirement of the PEBC certification for registration and the number and academic nature of the examinations. In 1964, the President, Dean Hughes referred to the possibility that in the future the PEBC Certificate might be the only route by which interprovincial registration could be effected and that the Certificate might become prerequisite to all licensing. In 1965, Manitoba became the first provincial statutory body to require PEBC registration for pharmacists from outside the province with Alberta following later in the same year. By 1975, all participating provinces required PEBC registrant for out-of-province graduates. In Quebec, provincial regulations did not permit mandatory PEBC registration, Quebec applicants possessing a degree other than that of the Université de Montreal or Université Laval, may present evidence of having Board registration as one means of demonstrating their equivalence. In 1975, Ontario made PEBC registration a requirement for all its graduates, New Brunswick since 1988, Manitoba and Nova Scotia will in 1992 and soon Alberta will have similar requirements.

In 1969, a special study committee, chaired by Donald Cameron, (of Alberta) reviewed PEBC examinations with assistance from the R.S. McLaughlin Examinations and Research Centre at the University of Alberta. The experience that G. Hartnett at the University of Saskatchewan was gaining using a multiple choice type of question to replace subjective (or essay-type) questions was also reviewed. The value of the practical section of the exam was questioned in light of the decreasing use of manipulative procedures in practise. The major goal of the examinations was recognized as a means to assess the competency to apply knowledge to practise situations. The Committee recommended that the PEBC examinations be reduced in

length from four days to one and one-half; there be a significant replacement of the subjective questions by objective multiple-choice questions; and that the manipulative component of the practical examination be replaced by a written examination with practise-oriented multiple-choice questions; that the basic science examination be eliminated but some questions be included in other examinations which will evaluate basic science knowledge in relation to the pharmaceutical sciences. So the seven original tests were reduced to three: Pharmacy I (pharmaceutics and pharmacy administration); Pharmacy II (pharmacology, pharmaceutical chemistry, and pharmacognosy); and Pharmacy III, a practise-oriented exam. The Committee also recommended the possibility that there be the elimination of the traditional subject area identification with a view to combining the examinations in such a manner as to require the candidate to draw upon a complete store of knowledge without regard to course identification. The change in examination format resulted in a marked increase in the number of candidates writing the exams. Computer grading started in 1974, utilizing facilities at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1978, the University of Toronto's computer was used due to its physical proximity to PEBC offices. A fall series of exams was introduced in 1975. In 1978, a proposal was approved to introduce the case study approach in exams. In 1980, Pharmacy I and Pharmacy II were combined as Pharmaceutical Sciences (still two 3-hour exams) and Pharmacy III became Professional Pharmacy Practise which followed a case study format. These changes were designed to make the examinations more practise-oriented and to test more effectively the candidate's ability to use their basic knowledge in the practise environment. In 1986, the examinations were merged into one examination with three 3-hour sittings (i.e. qualifying examination), with the academic portion of the former being transferred to the evaluating examination for foreign-trained graduates. The evaluating examination is seven hours long – two sessions of 3 1/2 hours.

In 1979, responding to student requests and because of the size of Ontario and the large number of candidates writing, examination centres were established in some Ontario centres outside of Toronto.

The extent to which the Board would become eventually involved with foreign pharmacists emigrating to Canada was not foreseen prior to the passing of the Act nor in the wording of Section 2 of the Examination Regulations which defined the academic qualifications of candidates for the examinations as "approved by the Canadian Conferences of Pharmaceutical Faculties". As early as 1964, the question was asked if provincial licensing bodies could use the PEBC to examine foreign applicants seeking registration in a province. CCPF did not have the resources to evaluate foreign candidate's qualifications. The first immigrant applicants wrote in 1968. However, it was not until after the

Board had a process for evaluating such applicants (1970), did the numbers increase. To December 1990, some 3,123 foreign graduates have been evaluated since 1970 (2,197 under the old Credentials Committee procedure until 1986, plus 926 considered acceptable for the evaluating examination). The number of applicants continue to increase with a record number of 295 document evaluation applications processed in 1990. Responding to increasing requests for applicants to write the evaluating examination outside of Canada resulted in the establishment of a London site in August 1987 and in Hong Kong in 1990.

Finances caused the early Board members much concern since the low participation in the examinations provided little income. In 1964, a vigorous campaign was launched to encourage pharmacists who had been licensed in any province for ten years or more prior to the passing of the Act to apply for registration in 1964 at a special fee of \$50 instead of the regular \$75. As a further inducement, those who had been licensed for fewer than ten years could apply in 1964 and pay the reduced fee and receive the certificate later in their tenth year of licensure. The Board had 1,107 applications — only 400 had been expected! A surplus of nearly \$30,000 resulted after all expenses were paid and C.Ph.A. was repaid for the expenses of the Organizational Committee and the costs of obtaining the PEBC Act of Incorporation (\$7,300). Deficits occurred in the following three years but changes in the examinations, provincial requirements for PEBC certification, and foreign candidate applications have maintained a good financial outlook for the Board.

The Board shared office space and facilities with C.Ph.A. for the first four years. The Executive Director of C.Ph.A., J.C. Turnbull also served as a part-time Registrar-Treasurer of PEBC. In September 1967, Dr. A.W. Matthews, the retiring Dean of Pharmacy, University of British Columbia, assumed the office as Registrar-Treasurer. In 1973, F.N. Hughes, who had just retired as Dean of Pharmacy, University of Toronto, became the Registrar-Treasurer. A.W. Matthews became Secretary of Examinations with full responsibility for all arrangements regarding examinations. Workload soon required the addition of a full-time administrative assistant along with the part-time assistant. In 1979, J.F. Creasy was hired as a Deputy Registrar and then appointed as a full-time Registrar-Treasurer on February 1, 1981. When C.Ph.A. moved to Ottawa in early 1980, the Board remained as tenants of the Addiction Research Foundation, the new owners of the building. In December, 1980, it moved to 123 Edward Street to the same location as the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy and the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

In 1965, C.Ph.A. established the Dean G.A. Burbidge Memorial Award to be presented each year to the candidate who obtained the highest aggregate marks in the PEBC examinations. Alberta has had three Burbidge Award recipients: L.L. Widney (1969), R.F. Kapy (1971) and G.J. Gunn (1990).

Since Quebec was a non-participating province, problems were created with respect to its graduates writing the examination. In 1966, the Board agreed that pharmacists qualified under Section 15 in any province were eligible for PEBC registration but candidates in a non-participating province would not be eligible for admission to the examinations. This was later modified so that such candidates were admissible provided they were endorsed by a participating province and later without endorsement. Graduates of the two Quebec universities first sat the examinations in 1977 with their applications endorsed by the Ontario College of Pharmacists. It is only since 1984 that the Quebec statutory body has become a full participant on the Board.

**The Future.** In 1979, President-Elect G.O. Lundgren appointed a Special Planning Committee "to examine the future role of the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada". Within this report, the Board's involvement in specialty certification was examined but decided it would be inappropriate to proceed in these areas at that time. In 1990, subsequent to a request from the Canadian Board of Specialties in Pharmacy, PEBC agreed to establish a mechanism for specialty recognition and certification and established a Committee on Specialties to do this.

The Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada has set a standard for pharmacy that has helped strengthen pharmacy education and practise in Canada. Through its forward thinking, it will continue in its leadership role in national pharmacy standards both in general practise and in specialty areas.

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Table 1: Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada

#### Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Appointees:

1964-71	D. M. Cameron	1983-88	R. E. Moskalyk
1972-79	R. B. MacLean	1989-	S. Kelcher
1980-82	D. M. Cameron		



## Presidents:

1966-68 D. M. Cameron

1978-79 R. B. MacLean

1985-86 R. E. Moskalyk

## Registrar Treasurer:

1967-73 A. W. Matthews

Applicants Writing Qualifying Examinations							
	Graduate Class Attempt		Earlier Graduate Attempt		Total Writing	Number of Graduates	% of Graduates Writing in Year of Graduation
	first	repeat	first	repeat			
1965	1	0	1	0	2	73	1.4%
1966	0	0	0	0	0	50	0.0%
1967	1	0	1	0	2	56	1.8%
1968	1	0	0	0	1	68	1.5%
1969	5	0	2	0	7	36	13.9%
1970	6	0	1	0	7	58	10.3%
1971	23	0	3	0	26	66	34.8%
1972	34	0	1	0	35	70	48.6%
1973	49	0	2	1	52	76	64.5%
1974	55	0	6	2	63	80	68.8%
1975	54	1	7	5	67	81	66.7%
1976	65	0	6	4	75	78	83.3%
1977	73	4	8	3	88	92	79.3%
1978	72	0	7	5	84	94	76.6%
1979	63	0	3	3	69	90	70.0%
1980	56	1	8	2	67	78	71.8%
1981	79	4	6	1	90	99	79.8%
1982	72	5	3	4	84	94	76.6%
1983	56	6	4	3	69	99	56.6%
1984	47	0	10	5	62	76	61.8%
1985	50	1	9	4	64	61	82.0%
1986	56	1	9	2	68	66	84.8%
1987	68	3	9	8	88	77	88.3%
1988	97	4	7	4	112	102	95.1%
1989	97	2	7	3	109	104	93.3%
1990	93	2	2	4	101	103	90.3%
Total	1273	34	122	63	1492	2027	—



Seminar in Calgary 1950s.

front (l to r): ?, Vince Harrigan,

second row: Ken Penley, Prue Penley, Archie McLeod, Norman Sproule, Ted Crooks

third row: ?, George Hawrelak; fourth row: ?, Alf Edlund

## Continuing Education In Pharmacy

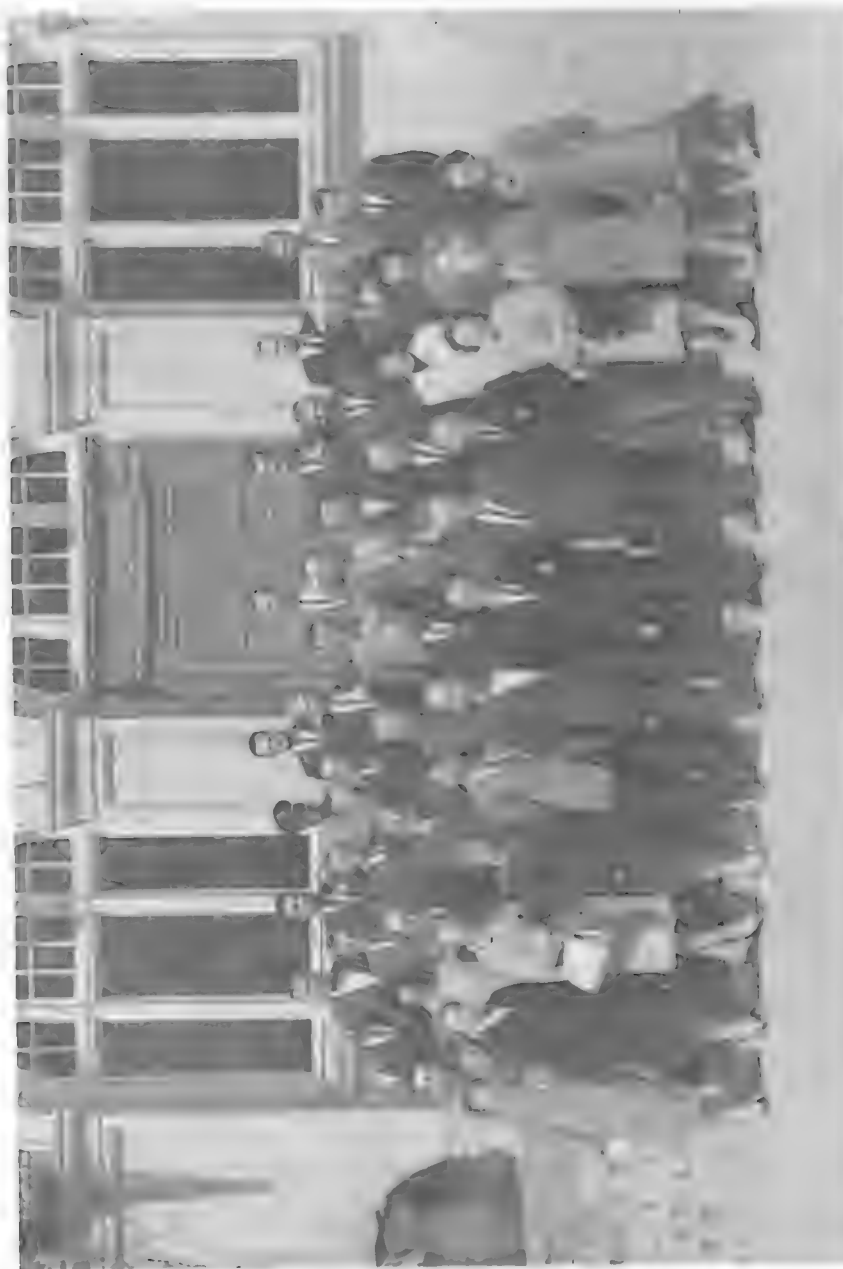
by Mrs. Arlene Ponting

*This topic has been referred to under "Milestones in Legislation". Alberta was the first province in Canada to make continuing education mandatory for continued licensure. It has been said that "failure to participate in continuing education renders a professional practitioner at best, a gifted amateur after only 5 years".*

*District meetings, over the years, had intended to provide an element of continuing education, but history will show that only about 10% of the members attend a district meeting.*

*Likewise, the annual meeting and its program attempted to supply an element of continuing education, but, as Dr. Huston is quoted as saying, "It is difficult to expect rapt attention in such a carnival atmosphere as the annual meeting affords".*

**History.** The history of Continuing Pharmacy Education in Alberta goes back more than 25 years. During the 1960's programs were organized by the Faculty of Pharmacy with the assistance of the Department of Extension and the



Refresher Course. University of Alberta, mid 1960s



Refresher Course at Vermilion.

seated (l to r): C. W. Pickup, Dr. J. R. Murray, Dean M. J. Huston, Jack White (Ciba), Mrs. Kay King (Vegreville), Ron Davis (Pfizer), Carmen Long (Vermilion)  
 standing (l to r): Bill Ilkiw (Mundare), Lloyd McKinnon (Wainwright), Lorne Mitchell (Wainwright), Bill Skakun (Two Hills), Joe Tredger (Elk Point), Ted Skitch (St Paul), Cliff King (Vegreville), O. Ferbey (Bonnyville), Ross Boake (Vermilion), Ted Paradis (St Paul), Reg Northey, Reg O'Neill, Russ Nikiforuk (Vegreville).

**Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.** A one week residential course was offered annually at the University. Scientific presentations were given by Faculty members.

During the early 1970's, under the leadership of Dr. Tony Locock, continuing education was organized by the Faculty with the assistance of the Divisions of Continuing Medical Education at the University of Alberta and the University of Calgary. Series of evening lectures were held in Edmonton, Calgary and other sites.

During this time the Joint Committee on Continuing Education recommended that education become mandatory for pharmacists in the province. This was due to pressures from pharmacists participating in programs as well as public and professional concerns about competence and the quality of the pharmaceutical service. The legislation which enabled the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association to implement this requirement was passed by the provincial government on December 15, 1975 and became effective June 1, 1976. The Division of Continuing Pharmacy Education was organized as part of the

Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Dr. D. Biggs was the Chairman and Doreen Zinyk the Coordinator. Dr. M. Wolowyk was in charge of Workshops and Seminars, Mr. B. Ferbey was responsible for Assessment and Mr. F. Rumble was responsible for the correspondence courses and the publication *Kerygma*.

Dr. Gary VanPetten became Dean of the Faculty but his untimely death rendered his term of office quite short. His support of continuing education is commemorated by the naming of an annual education seminar, held prior to the annual conventions, in his name.

The Division organized an impressive array of continuing education programs which involved seminars at many locations, and interdisciplinary workshops. A comprehensive correspondence program was started with the Division organizing the writing and offering of mini-correspondence courses and a newsletter. Several years later the Medical Letter program was added to the correspondence offerings. Examinations were held and an accumulation of points over a three year period were required to retain one's license to practise.

The following objectives were identified for continuing education:

1. To maintain professional competency.
2. To improve professional skills.
3. To prepare pharmacists for professional roles.
4. To develop interprofessional cooperation among members of the health team for the benefit of patients and the general public.

## Pharmacy Technicians

*by Walt Boddy, with special thanks to Mr. Herman Neufeld and Mrs. Marilyn Thornton*

The need for the pharmacy technician was recognized by the profession in the early 1970's. A committee to study pharmacy technicians was established by C.S.H.P. (Alberta Branch) with Herman Neufeld as chairman. Later an A.Ph.A. committee of community pharmacists was also struck. After months of study these two committees joined forces. With the approval of the Council of the A.Ph.A. a submission was made to Alberta Advanced Education to establish a program in Alberta.

In April 1976 a Pharmacy Technician Program was approved and on June 1, 1976 Mr. Herman Neufeld was hired by Red Deer College to head up this program. The first class of 16 students started on September 1, 1976 at Red Deer College. In 1980 Mr. Merv Dusyk became the assistant and when

Mr. Neufeld left in 1981, Mr. Dusyk became the Director.

In June 1992 the class size had grown to 45 students and there now are three full time staff at Red Deer College.

**Advisory Committee.** From the very outset there was great cooperation between Red Deer College and the A.Ph.A. This was accomplished by a Pharmacy Technician Advisory Committee to work with Red Deer College to develop a course which would serve the needs of both hospital and community pharmacy. The first committee consisted of:

Mrs. Erma Nash	Hospital Pharmacy
Mr. David McRitchie	Community Pharmacy
Dr. Art Anderson	U of A
Mr. Herman Neufeld	Red Deer College
Mr. David Bougher	Alberta Hospitals
Mr. Walt Boddy	Secretary and Resource

The committee in 1991 consisted of the following:

Mr. Joe Tabler	A.Ph.A. Council Member
Mr. Dave Bougher	Alberta Hospitals
Mr. Rock Folkman	Red Deer College
Mrs. Donna Galvin	Hospital Pharmacy
Miss Nancy Rae	U of A
Mr. Lawrence Serediak	Community Pharmacy
Mr. Ron Tisdell	Hospital Pharmacy
Ms. Nadine Weighill	Pharmacy Technician
Mrs. Marilyn Thornton	Secretary and Resource

The Pharmacy Advisory Committee has dealt with many problems over the years such as:

Ratio of technician to pharmacist. After pharmacy support personnel were defined and Standards of Practice were set down in the A.Ph.A. Act and Regulations the following ratios were established:

- (a) 1:1 in individual drug distribution systems.
- (b) 1:2 (one pharmacist to two technicians) in hospital or other health care institutions.

Duties of the pharmacist and technician were set down as in the following table:

Duties and Responsibilities of Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians as Approved by the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association (the duties of the Technician may be performed only under the direct supervision of a pharmacist)		
Processing the Prescription	PHARMACIST	TECHNICIAN
1. Collection of demographic information		X
2. Receive a written prescription		X
3. Interpretation of prescription	X	
a) indication for use	X	
b) dosage	X	
c) dosage from	X	
4. Transcribing of information onto patient profile		X
5. Monitoring patient profiles	X	
a) allergies	X	
b) drug information	X	
c) rational drug therapy	X	
6. Selection of drug product	X	
7. Generation of prescription label		X
8. Counting and pouring (includes obtaining product from shelf stock)		X
9. Selection of auxiliary labels	X	
10. Preparation of Rx receipt		X
11. Preparation of third party billings		X
12. Reporting of controlled and narcotic drugs		X
13. Preparation of compounded pharmaceuticals incl. IV additives & TPN	X	
a) checking of calculations	X	
b) checking of weights and/or measures	X	
c) checking of procedure	X	
d) responsibility for documentation	X	
e) physical preparation		X
14. Preparation of prepackaged pharmaceuticals	X	
a) checking of packaging material	X	
b) checking of stock product	X	
c) checking of labels	X	
d) checking of procedures	X	
e) responsibility for documentation	X	
f) physical preparation		X
15. Final check on all prescriptions	X	
16. Consultation with physicians and other healthcare professionals in respect to medication orders	X	
a) verbal prescriptions	X	
b) repeat authorization	X	
c) Rx copies	X	
17. Releasing of prescription to patient with assurance of appropriate patient counselling	X	
18. Patient counselling on OTCs eg) product selection and recommendations	X	
19. Inventory control		
a) placing orders		X
b) responsibility for placing narcotic and controlled drug orders	X	
c) receiving orders		X

**Outreach Program.** In 1987 an outreach program was offered to 50 students employed in pharmacy who wished to upgrade their technical skills and to be certified. Twelve courses are offered over a three year period. In 1988 there were 76 students, roughly half were hospital and half community.

The program is conducted by teleconferences held at seven sites in Alberta on a Thursday evening. In 1992 this program was placed on hold due to financial restraints.

**Practicum.** A practicum is provided in both a hospital and community pharmacy.

**Continuing Education.** Presently under study for pharmacy technicians.

The Alberta Pharmacy Technician Program is one of the finest in North America. Students are drawn not only from Alberta, but also from Saskatchewan and Manitoba.



# Women In Alberta Pharmacy

by Donald M. Cameron

PHARMACY WAS ONCE a male dominated profession, but, in the past fifty years the pendulum has swung nearly 180 degrees. The result is that women practitioners now outnumber male practitioners. Graduating classes, since the 1960's, have seen female graduates outnumber male graduates by a margin of almost two to one. Prior to World War II there was a small number of women practising pharmacy. Of the small number there was usually a family relationship such as the pharmacist was the daughter of a pharmacist, or she was a member of a husband and wife team, or she was related to a pharmacist who chose to offer her an employment opportunity.

With the advent of World War II a number of male apprentices were called into one of the services or chose to enlist in one. Although a three year apprenticeship was required, in addition to the University training for registration as a pharmacist, the government of the day did not recognize the period as one of schooling and, therefore, it did not qualify as a waiver from military duty.

The University classes, for pharmacy, became smaller and smaller. For example, the graduation class of 1945 consisted of six women and two men. Suddenly it was recognized and agreed that women should be recruited into the profession of pharmacy.

Advertisements began to appear pointing out the excellent opportunities for women in pharmacy. Perhaps the "break point" for the impetus to encourage women to consider a career in pharmacy was in 1941, just about a half century ago.

An advertisement in the Pharmacy Calendar for 1941-42 read, "There are many opportunities for women in Pharmacy. They find a natural place in hospitals, medical clinics and larger dispensaries. Also, more and more women are entering the field of retail pharmacy". This fact may sound strange in 1992.



l to r: Jean Nettleton, Nell Estabrook, Muriel Johnston, Ena Thompson at Calgary A.S.A. luncheon 1991.

A research of the records shows that in the month of August 1990 there were 259 women employed in retail pharmacies in Edmonton. How many men were listed? 189.

To demonstrate the increasing numbers of female pharmacists entering the profession, we have reproduced a chart (see next page) with records made available by the University of Alberta. It appears that the records of the twenties and thirties were not carefully kept for this specific purpose. The years, commencing with the 50's show a fairly steady gain. There are dips in the chart for which no explanation is possible. The serious decline in 1969 is accountable to the fact that there were few graduates as in that year the Bachelor of Science Degree went from a three to a four year University studies requirement.

One would tend to believe, (based on the situation as it exists today) that once a female had graduated she was welcomed into the profession with the same enthusiasm as her male counterpart. Was this the case? No! Indeed it was not necessarily so.

The story is told that Myrtle Blain (Magnusson) upon graduation went to visit the then Registrar-Treasurer to enquire if there were employment opportunities. He replied that "yes, he knew of some" but would not reveal their names. He said they wanted an employee who could "lift boxes".



Jean (nee Beecroft) Maxie.  
Her Moore's Drug Store was the  
first retail drug store opened by  
a woman in Calgary.

#### Number of Female Graduates:

1920 . . . . 1	1956 . . . . 12	1974 . . . . 49
1927 . . . . 6	1957 . . . . 9	1975 . . . . 43
1940 . . . . 3	1958 . . . . 13	1976 . . . . 54
1941 . . . . 7	1959 . . . . 11	1977 . . . . 60
1942 . . . . 0	1960 . . . . 20	1978 . . . . 67
1943 . . . . 5	1961 . . . . 26	1979 . . . . 53
1944 . . . . 5	1962 . . . . 19	1980 . . . . 59
1945 . . . . 8	1963 . . . . 25	1981 . . . . 58
1946 . . . . 5	1964 . . . . 22	1982 . . . . 63
1947 . . . . 12	1965 . . . . 32	1983 . . . . 59
1948 . . . . 9	1966 . . . . 25	1984 . . . . 53
1949 . . . . 3	1967 . . . . 40	1985 . . . . 36
1950 . . . . 9	1968 . . . . 35	1986 . . . . 47
1951 . . . . 6	1969 . . . . 9*	1987 . . . . 58
1952 . . . . 6	1970 . . . . 35	1988 . . . . 59
1953 . . . . 2	1971 . . . . 36	1989 . . . . 64
1954 . . . . 6	1972 . . . . 35	1990 . . . . 68
1955 . . . . 6	1973 . . . . 47	



Myrtle (Magnusson) Blain  
and Lawrence Blain 1987.

The late Betty Laycraft (Cook) reported that during the war years, married ladies had to have special permits before they could be employed.

There always has been a discrepancy between what a male and a female was paid for performing, allegedly, the same job. That discrepancy in pharmacy has virtually disappeared.

Myrtle Blain, who operated her own pharmacy in Calgary, believed that some of the difference in salary may have been caused by the perception that some male customers would not ask a female for some personal items of hygiene.

To overcome this, Myrtle wrapped and labelled items of personal hygiene and placed them on open display for self-serve. She "guesses" that she may have been the first pharmacist, in her area, to do so.

Have things changed? Yes indeed! In the 1920's and to the 1960's condoms were kept in a drawer and sold (usually) only to men with their coat collars turned up and the brim of their hat turned well down.

In the 1960's condoms were labelled and sold in a "plain brown envelope".

Since the 1970's they have been openly displayed, and sold from a self-service department. Have morals deteriorated? Probably not. Pharmacists have responded more openly to a health matter that is vital to the community; and isn't conversation, counselling and adult responsibility more important than lack of knowledge, secrecy or downright ignorance?

One more story should suffice to prove that female pharmacists are mature enlightened professionals.

At a meeting of the Calgary and District Retail Druggists Association in the early 50's, a film was to be shown on the subject of venereal diseases. Calgary physicians had been invited to attend and one chose to do so. There were six lady pharmacists at the meeting. Out of courtesy (?) the ladies were invited to

leave. They refused. Those in charge refused to show the film. The ladies sat tight. There was no film that night. Have female pharmacists established that they are pharmacists? You had better believe it.

There was not a pitched battle but a serious discussion as to whether or not this chapter, "Women in Pharmacy" should constitute the basis for a chapter. "Why?" they asked; "Are we not all pharmacists?" The answer, of course, is that, "Yes, you are right". The purpose which is hoped to be served is the fact that women, equally skilled, were very much in the minority and have become the majority in the last half of the twentieth century.

For purposes of this chapter and this book, the Association circulated a questionnaire to female pharmacist members.

Here is the consensus of the replies to specific questions.

Q. How did your career in pharmacy affect your family life and vice versa?

A. The great majority of respondents replied that they had no problem accommodating career needs with family needs. Family needs almost always rated first priority. A few who were single parents, for whatever reason, replied that they had been able to raise a family and carry on a satisfactory career life both time and remuneration wise.

A number commented that the profession made it possible to drop out of the profession for a period of time to raise a family and re-enter the profession on a full or part-time basis.

Some commented on the hours during which a pharmacy is open but the great majority said that they had been able to work around that peculiar circumstance. Pharmacy may be the best profession to allow the pursuit of a professional career and still find time to be a homemaker, wife and mother.

Another question asked: "What have been the most rewarding aspects of life as a pharmacist?"

By far the most-mentioned reward was the satisfaction that comes from "helping people". This was said in a number of ways, some of which are reproduced.

- We live in a small town so being recognized and trusted by people is very rewarding. Also the fact they trust me enough to confide in me is heart warming.
- Helping people understand what their medication is all about. Helping to contribute to therapy.
- Being appreciated by my patients.

- What pleases me the most is establishing long term relationships with my patients and watching their families grow and change over the years.
- Working with people, be they patients or other members of the health care team.
- To be professionally helpful to the general public concerning their health needs.
- People contacts and the feeling of “helping others”.

Perhaps the second most mentioned satisfaction was being part of the health care team. Comments were plentiful about the good feeling that comes from conversing with, contributing to, and being appreciated by the members of the health team.

Also mentioned, frequently, was the satisfaction of being prepared to go “that extra mile”. For some years now pharmacists have been rated first of all professionals in honesty, integrity and caring.

Other advantages to a career in pharmacy:

- warm feeling of acceptance by the great majority of practitioners of pharmacy; camaraderie, and willingness to share information on products,
- provides an easy and accessible work place,
- a pleasant and highly respected work place,
- since the 1960's it has provided a simple means of access to registration for practise in other provinces and even further afield.
- Remuneration has been such that a decent life style has been possible. It has allowed most of those who choose to do so, to become a partner or owner; it has allowed some pharmacists to launch their husbands into a business venture of their own.
- It has allowed some single parent pharmacists to raise, clothe and educate a family.
- Remuneration, although never thought to be sufficient, shows that women in pharmacy were 13th in income as opposed to males who ranked 29th according to a 1971 survey.

Another question was: If you could do it again would you choose pharmacy as a career?

The great majority of those who responded said, “Yes” and many with

enthusiasm. Of those who said "No", the reasons were:

- Pharmacy is too stressful.
- The remuneration is low.
- I really wanted to be a physician, lawyer or other choice.
- The hours are too long.

We reproduce, herewith, an excerpt from a response which accompanied the questionnaire from Margaret Armfelt, and a reproduction from an article by Carmen Krogh.

These two, probably, fairly represent the views of two-thirds of the respondents to the questionnaire.

### **Margaret Armfelt**

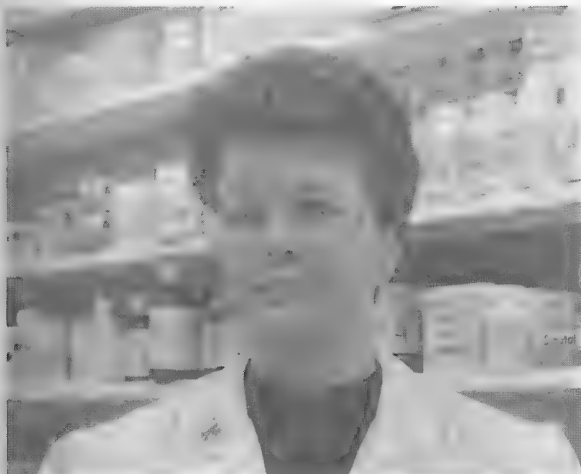
Is pharmacy a good profession for women? Yes! Very much so.

The first exposure to pharmacy as a career choice came in the form of a magazine article written from the perspective of women entering the field of pharmacy. At that time I was in grade eight. When it became necessary to choose a career, I looked for something that would concentrate on math and science. The article on pharmacy came to mind.

As a student, pharmacy provided a "challenge" academically. Surprisingly during the late 1960's, women formed more than 50% of the class. We were already an accepted part of the faculty. The female portion of pharmacy graduates has increased since that time.

As a graduate with one year internship for support, the working world was not as prepared to meet and consult with the new female employee as would have been expected in the 1970's. Today the face of pharmacy may be female or male – both being equally accepted. The public seem to choose a pharmacist based on personal interaction and experience rather than on gender. In the 70's, a pharmacist's role was to interpret and dispense prescriptions. In the 90's, a pharmacist's role continues to revolve around the prescription, however, the emphasis is now on the customer being well informed regarding his or her medication. This allows the customer to make the final decision regarding their medication.

As a career choice, I have found pharmacy to be rewarding in the work place. Both fellow staff and customers combine to make a work day interesting, challenging and pleasant. Opportunities in pharmacy include both part and full-time work. I have found that as my family commitments have



Margaret Armfelt.

changed my career commitments have been able to follow – from full-time as a new grad to part-time as a new parent and then back to full-time as my children have become more independent.

Pharmacy as a career choice has been the right one for me during the last twenty plus years. I would recommend this choice for anyone with math/science interests who like to work with people.

### **Carmen Krough**

My best memories involve people; searching the literature, worldwide, to find the drug regimen a rheumatologist needed for a seriously ill four-year old girl in great pain with septic arthritis. And it worked.

Sending a man to the emergency room when he wanted to use Murine in his eyes. Doctors removed the iron filings embedded in his cornea and saved his sight. He came back to thank me.

Finding an essential reference in an obscure 1862 textbook that a pathologist needed to solve a case.

Explaining to an elderly woman how to take her drugs.

Feeling satisfied presenting a well-researched lecture.

Pharmacy has been good to me since I graduated from the University of Alberta in 1965, the last year of the three-year degree program. Twenty-three years may seem like a long time, but it has gone by in a flash.

Those three years of university were tough - 8:00 a.m. classes every week day as well as Saturdays, plus some late afternoon labs. There wasn't too much





A.Ph.A. Council 1972.

back (l to r): Stan Miller, Stu Bailey, Dr. Gordon Myers, Eli Ambrosie, David McRitchie.

centre (l to r): Jack Shillabeer, Walter Boddy, Len Slipp, Harold Brooks.

front (l to r): Don Cameron, Doreen Zinyk, Ron MacLean, Carmen Krogh, Lynn Holroyd.

time for socializing, but the fact I was at university seemed to be enough.

My career in pharmacy has been unusual. That's one of the beauties of this profession; you can choose a variety of careers. I have worked in community practise (full and part-time) by choice and to supplement my income for those student loans. I have worked in hospitals as a staff pharmacist, as a director of pharmacy, and as a drug information pharmacist. More recently, I have become involved in publishing. I am responsible for a number of publications at the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, the major one being the CPS.

Pharmacy is wonderful that way. A pharmacy graduate can move into many fields - community, hospital, administration, drug information, consulting, research, industry, government, teaching, education, and military. Jobs are plentiful. A pharmacist can work full or part-time with ease. And the pay is "not too shabby." It's true a pharmacist needs a lot of patience; he must be 100% accurate, and sometimes must work shifts and long hours. Sometimes you feel as if you have to know a bit about everything...pathology lab results, new drugs. It can be physically and emotionally demanding but, oh, so satisfying.

I chose pharmacy by accident. I was confused about what I wanted to be, either a mechanic, a writer, or a doctor. There were no jobs for writers, and in 1962 women did not become mechanics. The university fees for medicine were too high for me and being the eldest of seven children I was conscious of the number of years required. Those were the days of limited student loans so money was important. Pharmacy seemed to offer a good balance - similar courses to those of the meds and extra options in English. It was a good accident because I've thrived.

I have given and I still give lectures to RNs, MDs, students, pharmacists, and others. I love teaching. I have evaluated and assessed clinical literature and helped determine the best treatment for sick or injured patients (and still do). I have assisted at cardiac arrests and been responsible for various dosing regimens. I have managed large drug inventories. I have sat on the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association's council and helped organize a collective bargaining unit for pharmacists. I have done lots of writing and editing and have been fascinated by the publishing world.

I became a pharmacist by accident, but I have no regrets. Pharmacy is a dynamic; there is always something new and interesting to learn. We can stand tall among our colleagues - physicians, nurses, and other health care practitioners. Learning from patients, I have experienced personal growth from being involved in health care.

Yes, pharmacy has been good to me.

We present, herewith, a thumb nail sketch of a number of female pharmacists. Like a snowflake, each story is beautiful, unique and cherished; but fortunately, less transitory.

**Rosemary Bacovsky.** These notes were extracted from the curriculum vitae of Rosemary Bacovsky:

Born in Coleman, Alberta, Rosemary received a B.Sc. in pharmacy with distinction in 1977. In that year she registered to practise pharmacy and successfully passed the P.E.B.C. exam.

Rosemary became a staff pharmacist at the Cross Cancer Institute and in 1981 became Assistant Director. She saw the staff increase from 3 to 13. Major projects included planning and implementing a cost-effective, clinically oriented chemotherapy admixture service. All of this, helping to plan a new Pharmacy Department and coordinating the physical move .

From 1984 to 1988 she managed a department with a staff of 21 on an operating budget of \$5.5 million. Major projects included planning an



Rosemary A. Bacovsky.

expansion to a clinically oriented, total I.V. admixture program. During this time she completed a M.Sc. degree at the University of Alberta.

Rosemary left the Cross Cancer in 1988 to pursue a Master of Health Service Administration program. Coincidentally, she served the Redwater Hospital as Director of Pharmacy and worked as a pharmacy Consultant to government, hospitals and the pharmaceutical industry on drug and health care related matters.

In addition to all of the foregoing, she had been actively engaged in teaching at the Faculty level.

Has she made a contribution to her association and her associates? Yes! To a great degree.

She has received a number of professional honours including Fellowships in both A.S.H.P. and C.S.H.P. She has served as President of C.S.H.P. And just maybe, she has yet to make her major contributions to her profession and to the world. Just remember, she only received her initial degree in 1977.

**Mary (Wholey) Bell.** A shy young miss raised on a farm in Flagstaff Hills, she attended Merna High School and graduated from Camrose Lutheran College. She chose pharmacy as a career for the simple reason that she wanted to be pharmacist!



Mary Wholey Bell at right, with Isobel Kenny and Joe Tredger, 1967.

Mary "graduated" in the licentiate course but chose to continue on to the B.Sc. degree. She was the gold medallist in both years! Mary was also the first winner of the Neil I. McDermid Memorial Prize in pharmacy.

She joined the staff at the pharmacy, University of Alberta Hospital and was Director 1945-48. During this period she lectured in dispensing with the School of Pharmacy. Among her students were veterans of W.W. II, survivors from 3, 4 and 5 years of service, much of it overseas.

Mary married Dr. Ted Bell and took some time for helping to introduce to the world three sons, all of whom are now physicians.

Misfortune overtook the Bell family. All fell victim to the dreaded polio disease. The disease left Ted a paraplegic and, undoubtedly, shortened his life.

Mary returned to practise off and on and became Administrative Assistant in the Department of Pharmacology.

Ever the student Mary became enamoured with the vagaries of the market place as it relates to stocks and bonds and buy and sell. Although active herself Mary never advanced to the "broker" stage. She left pharmacy, essentially, and represented Sherrit-Gordon as Executive Assistant to the V.P. in Marketing and served Sherrit-Gordon in Canada and many other interesting parts of the world.

**Dorothy (Whiteman) Boyce.** Born in Toronto, the daughter of a Presbyterian Minister, Dorothy, with her family, moved to Duncan, B.C. and thence to Southern Alberta and to Calgary in 1914.

Dorothy attended Crescent Heights High School where William Aberhart was the principal.

A pharmacist uncle in New York and an abiding interest in science led her to pursue a career in pharmacy. She commenced work with Wendell MacLean; this was the summer of 1918 after one University "year". After University in 1919 she worked for Mr. Dunford. In that store the business of liquor by prescription, was brisk.

Dorothy was originally not enrolled in pharmacy but in the arts. When she did enter pharmacy she proceeded to receive a B.Sc. - in 1922 the second Pharmacy B.Sc. class in the British Empire. She had to forfeit her B.A. degree as the "rules" were that two degrees could not be obtained in six years and she had earned both in five. The *Evergreen and Gold*, among other comments, said that Dorothy was "likeable, loveable and capable". Those words could be re-echoed today.

Dorothy was a quality hockey player; at tennis she was a star.

After graduation, Dorothy had yet to serve some of the required two years of apprenticeship. Among those who interviewed her was Lt. Gov. Brett who owned two pharmacies in Banff. A position was offered but she replied she was unable to accept because of the required internship. Shortly thereafter, she received a letter advising her that she could take the position. Her license arrived. To quote an old saw, "The more things change, the more they stay the same!"

Dorothy returned to the University of Toronto to increase her knowledge in the sciences intending to proceed to a Ph.D. She spent the summer of 1923 at the Col. Belcher Hospital in Calgary. Due to her father's illness Dorothy cut short her Ph.D. plans, accepting the M.Sc. in pharmacy and returned to Calgary. Dorothy was asked to become chief pharmacist at the Calgary General Hospital to replace Noel Farrow, leaving to open his own retail pharmacy. City Medical Superintendent, Dr. Gow, wanted Dorothy Whiteman because, in addition to pharmacy, she could assist in the lab which she did for 2 or 3 years until Dr. Lola McLachie came on staff as chief pathologist. The pharmacy was becoming busier. She had some notable apprentices during the thirties, viz: Archie McLeod, Howard Young, Doug Marles, Eric Richards and Ken Penley. Times were worsening and the pharmacy became the depot for welfare prescriptions. Some great stories could be told of those years; space does not permit.

During World War II, Dorothy Whiteman received a leave of absence to go to Nitro, Quebec to work in a Munitions plant. It was dangerous but rewarding work.

She left in 1943 to marry John Draper. They lived in Petrolia, Ontario but



Dorothy Whiteman at left, manager of the U of A Women's Hockey Team 1921. The coach at upper right is A. Whitney Matthews.



Dorothy (Whiteman) Boyce, 70 years later.

sadly, John Draper died suddenly of a stroke. They had been married for only 5-1/2 years.

In 1949, Dorothy returned to Alberta and to Banff. She started up her own travel agency called Traveller's Digest. She was an ardent skier and knew much of the adjacent Rocky Mountain ski area.

Help was hard to find and, in addition to operating her travel agency, she assisted from time to time, in the various pharmacies in Banff.

In 1957 Dorothy married James Boyce, a well known Banff area citizen. They had 25 happy years.

Dorothy continued to relieve, occasionally in Banff and Canmore. When McLaughlin of Canmore sold his store, Dorothy said, "That's it, no more except for a wedding, a funeral or a christening".

In 1982 Dorothy was honoured by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association for "60 years in pharmacy". She was presented with a diamond pin by Fred Boyle, A.Ph.A. President. She was delighted and was moved to remark that she was pleased to see so many females in pharmacy; when she commenced there were so few.

To close this memorable review; many friends and associates gathered in Banff to celebrate Dorothy's 90th Birthday. She personally greeted each guest and called them by name and was delighted to advise that she had just renewed her driver's license.



Mary Cuthill receives the Robins Bowl of Hygea from Ed Ingleson.

**Mary Cuthill.** Mary Cuthill was born in Edinburgh, Scotland and came to Canada as a child with her parents. Her father was a British Chemist who thought he would combine his income as a pharmacist to supplement his income while he "proved up" on a homestead! Mary reports that it was fortunate he was a chemist; he was definitely not a farmer.

He decided to pursue his chemist career but the Association required him to serve a year at University. Thus the Cuthills were the first family to graduate three generations, the father, Mary, and her son Ivan, a petroleum engineer.

Mr. Cuthill started a pharmacy of his own and Mary served her apprenticeship there. But before proceeding to University she veered off course and took business training. She served the provincial government on the examination branch of education for a few years.

She married and had one son Ivan. The marriage failed but Mary never has. Upon graduation she joined the staff at the Misericordia Hospital. Other fields seemed greener so she took her skills to the Royal Alexandra Hospital where she served until 1942 when she became the "chief" at the McLeod Building Dispensary owned and operated by Walter Sprague. She entered upon the happiest years of her career. She remained at the McLeod Building until Medical Arts opened on Jasper at 110th Street where she remained until her retirement in 1975. Those two locations housed many of Edmonton's Medical

Community and it is to their credit that they respected and "listened to" Mary Cuthill. On her retirement she was honoured by that Medical community and showered with gifts, which she richly deserved.

Mary has not been idle in retirement. Her best friend, Gladys Muttart, was a diabetic and Mary became interested and involved in activities surrounding that disease, which was one of the leading killers fifty years ago. Dr. Percy Sprague and Gladys Muttart organized the Edmonton Branch of the Diabetic Association. Mary was always involved and had the honour of travelling to Connaught Laboratories where she met Dr. Best of the renowned team of Banting and Best. Mary was President of the Diabetic Association.

She has long belonged to the Soroptimist Club, an International Women's Service club. She saw it grow from nothing to a giant in the field of help for the physically handicapped.

Mary Cuthill received the Robin's Bowl of Hygeia in 1976, the only lady pharmacist in Alberta to date, to have received such an honour.

You don't usually read of a woman being described as a "giant", but Mary Cuthill was a "giant" in leadership and in contributions to the world of pharmacy and humanity.

It is distressing to report that Mary Cuthill died July 24, 1992.

**Olly (Loza) Kochan.** Olly Kochan was born in Edmonton and received all of her education there. Her father played a significant role in her choice of pharmacy as a career. Because her father's success in instilling in her that education was of prime importance, she knew at an early age that she would attend University.

In the early fifties career choices for women were somewhat limited. She was drawn to medicine. Few women were entering this discipline. She wanted to marry and raise a family. Her perception was that motherhood and medicine were incompatible. Her father, an independent business man, promoted the profession of pharmacy for several reasons. He viewed the profession as a clean, pleasant, people oriented environment with the possibility of a private ownership. A vocation which could provide a good living, might be compatible with child-raising and ultimately would provide good insurance against life's surprises. Her father's vision and direction shaped her life.

During her university years she was actively involved in the pharmacy undergraduate society serving as social convenor and secretary-treasurer. Upon graduating in 1956, she joined the pharmacy staff at the University Hospital under Walter Maday, where she was employed until the birth of her first child.

During the child-raising years she continued the practise of pharmacy on a





Olly (Loza) Kochan, 1992.

part-time basis in the community. These years included practise in Regina from 1964-1968 and Calgary from 1969-1972. In 1971, her husband, Bill Kochan, died prematurely of cancer, leaving her to raise three young children.

After returning to Edmonton in 1972 she became active with the Edmonton Society of Pharmacists and increased her interest in A.Ph.A. activities, serving on the first A.Ph.A. Employment Ethics and Standards Committee.

In 1982 she was the successful applicant for the position of the Auditor-Inspector with the A.Ph.A. and joined the staff of the Association as the (very) first woman pharmacist to be employed by the A.Ph.A. in an administrative position.

In 1985 a full-time administrative position was created and she became the Professional Services Coordinator.

January 1, 1989 she became the Deputy-Registrar of the A.Ph.A. As in the previous position of Professional Services Coordinator, she was once again pioneering in an area where none had gone before.

She says, "My years with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association have been challenging, sometimes frustrating, demanding and very rewarding. Never have I enjoyed any employment anywhere more. Always, it is the people you encounter. I have had an opportunity to meet many colleagues who represent our profession honourably both provincially and from coast to coast; to work with allied health professionals who respect pharmacists and are increasingly aware of the benefits of collaboration; and members of the public who have a

growing appreciation of the role of the pharmacist. I recall the words of Don Cameron when he stated that my degree in pharmacy would be "my proudest possession". I would call my children by proudest possession but since I do not possess them it would be inappropriate. Thus it is indeed my "sheepskin" that is my "proudest possession" and has been, all these years, "the gold in my pocket" and the "joy in my soul".

**Erma (Stauffer) (Rowley) Nash.** Erma Nash was born in Alsask, Saskatchewan. At an early age the family moved to Byemore but Erma received her early education in Grande Prairie and Edmonton.

She served her apprenticeship with J.E. "Jack" McCallum at his location on Jasper Avenue about 105 Street.

Erma received her B.Sc. degree from the University of Alberta in 1946.

Upon graduation she commenced employment with the Royal Alexandra Hospital under direction of Doug Stewart and remained from 1947-50.

She then married Thomas Rowley, a mining engineer and moved to Flin Flon, Manitoba. She did not attempt to join the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association.

The family moved to Eldorado in Northern Saskatchewan where there was one drug store in a mining town.

In 1959 husband Thomas Rowley died and Erma had, essentially, been removed from any contact with pharmacy for a period of ten years. Her children were 1, 2, 6 and 8 years of age.

She returned to Edmonton and began employment with W. Neely in the dispensary in the Medical-Dental building on 100 Avenue and 106 Street.

There she remained until 1962 when she, again joined the staff at the Royal Alex Hospital. Upon the retirement of Norman Maitland Swaffield she became the Director. In 1968 she married Harry Nash. Erma remained at the "Alex" until 1982 when she retired.

During her long career (cut short by the ten years of no pharmacy association) she was active in the C.S.H.P. and the Red Deer College pharmacy technician course which she helped to design.

One son is a radiologist in Vancouver and three daughters are home-makers.

Two stepsons are University Professors. One is in Ottawa and one at George Mason University in Virginia. Both are computer scientists.

In her retirement, Erma has time to visit and entertain seven grandchildren.

**Annie Simpson.** It did not take long for the word to get around Brandon, Manitoba. The oldsters shook their heads and clucked their tongues. What was the world coming to? Mr. Fleming who ran the drug store in Brandon had just taken on a girl as an apprentice and she was planning to attend



Annie Simpson.

university and become a full-fledged druggist.

Back in 1900 when this event occurred in Brandon, a woman's place was in the home and Miss Annie Simpson, fresh from Bruce County, Ontario was considered a very daring young lady. People used to come into the Fleming drug store just to see this slip of a girl who was to become a druggist. Most of them thought it was a fad and she wouldn't stick it out the required three years.

*Head of Graduating Class.* But the wiseacres of Brandon were wrong, Miss Simpson did serve her apprenticeship with Mr. Fleming and went on to be the first woman student at the Manitoba College of Pharmacy. What was even more galling to the masterful males of the time was that Miss Simpson won the gold medal for proficiency and topped the graduating class. Once the men got over the shock of having what they thought was their private domain so successfully invaded they rallied around her and she was the sweetheart of the entire class.

Even after Miss Simpson got her diploma from the Manitoba College of Pharmacy (the first one issued to a woman in Western Canada) no one really believed that she would become a druggist. Miss Simpson had other ideas and backed by a firm Scottish determination, she decided she was going into business for herself.

She had come West with the intention of teaching school and in this idea had been encouraged by her brother James Simpson, first member of parliament

for the North West Territories. The West needed teachers, it was an expanding land and schools were few and far between. Yes, Mr. Simpson quite approved of his sister teaching. But when she came to him and asked for backing to set up a drug store in Calgary, he protested. After much persuasion he agreed to loan his sister \$500 but stipulated that she must open her store in Innisfail, instead of Calgary. He lived in Innisfail and thought at least he could keep an eye on her. He told his sister years later that he wrote off his \$500 as dead loss and figured she would be out of business in six months.

*Canny Business Woman.* Miss Simpson did not fail within six months. Her caninness as a business woman amazed the men of her time and she had many friends among the leaders of the west in the early days. Among them was R.B. Bennett, running mate to her brother as member of parliament when Alberta first came into the Dominion, former premier of Canada and now Viscount Bennett (dec.).

Miss Simpson was a first rate pharmacist as the testimony of many of her former apprentices will bear out. She served the town of Innisfail until 1914 when she sold out and went east for a rest and to visit with her sisters Mrs. Henry, Mrs. H. Musgrove and Miss Isabel who is still living in Wingham. When she came west again she worked for two years as chief dispenser for the Calgary General Hospital and then opened a store at Bassano operating it until 1924.

From 1924 until her retirement in 1938 she had a drug store in the resort town of Jasper, Alberta and was known by tourists from all parts of the world for her genial personality. Lady Byng and Lady Bessborough, wives of two Governors-General of Canada were friends of hers and often dropped into the store to chat when they were staying at Jasper Park Lodge.

*Life Member A.Ph.A..* After a long and interesting career Miss Annie Simpson, first woman pharmacist in the west, died in Vancouver on July 2, 1944 and she was buried at Ocean View Park. She had seen great changes in pharmacy since her apprenticeship in Fleming's store in Brandon. She had been the only woman member of C.Ph.A. at its 2nd Annual Convention in Calgary in 1908 and was one of the founders of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. When she retired in 1938 the A.Ph.A. made her a life member as a token of the esteem in which the members held her. The first woman pharmacist in the west had blazed the way for the scores of women pharmacists who have followed.

**Doreen (Carruthers) Zinyk.** Doreen Ellen Carruthers was born in Rose Valley, Saskatchewan. Her family moved to Alberta.

She served her internship with Grant Sanders of Bentley, Alberta. Doreen then attended the University of Alberta, from which she graduated in 1958 with the degree of B.Sc. Pharmacy.

Doreen married Leonard Zinyk, a high school teacher at Jasper Place Composite High School.

The Zinyk's had three children, Robin who had a degree in education and twins Darren and Dawn.

At an early age Doreen dedicated her life to God. She freely admitted that the Almighty was first in her priorities, her family second and all else third. Doreen was a lady easy to love and admire and both young and old were her friends.

Despite her church and young people's work she was a devoted family member. In addition she practised pharmacy in a number of Edmonton pharmacies more particularly Johnson's Drug Store on Whyte Avenue. She was active in pharmacy affairs and in the sixties sought a seat on the A.Ph.A. Council. When her opponent in the election became ineligible to serve on Council she was appointed to fill the unexpired term. Five years later she became the first ever lady President of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association (1974-75).

*Note: since that memorable breakthrough in 1974-75, Alberta had elected four more charming young ladies to the position of President. They are:*

Doreen Hagen	1980-81
Margo Ward	1988-89 & 1989-90
Dr. Judy Baker	1990-91
Donna Kowalishin	1992 (incumbent)

While serving on Council, Mrs. Zinyk was heavily involved in the Computer Committee Study, the everchanging Internship Committee Studies and her first pharmacy love, continuing education in pharmacy.

Mrs. Zinyk held, concurrently, the half time position of Continuing Education Coordinator as the appointee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association and the administrative Officer for the Faculty of Pharmacy. In these offices she served from 1975 until a long and serious illness caused her to take a lengthy leave of absence.

We borrow an excerpt from "Impact", a publication of the C.Ph.A.

In 1977 Mrs. Zinyk was elected as Vice-President of C.C.C.E.P. a position she held until she was elected President for a two year term in 1979. As the C.C.C.E.P. delegate for Alberta since 1974 and Canada's representative to continuing education conferences, Mrs. Zinyk became widely known in continuing education circles throughout Canada and the United States. She

has also contributed to research and published articles in various journals.

In recognition of the contributions to continuing education made by Mrs. Zinyk, over a number of years, a part of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association's Annual Conference, relative to the education component, is called, "Doreen Zinyk Memorial Lecture". Doreen did not survive her serious illness and departed this earth much too young. The world had lost a devout Christian, a caring pharmacist and a devoted wife, mother and friend.

# Hospital Pharmacy in Alberta

by Rosemary Bacovsky, B.Sc.(Pharm), M. Pharm, FASHP, FCSHP

THE HISTORY OF hospital pharmacy in Alberta reveals one rich in innovation; in development of new programs; in adaptation of concepts and programs used elsewhere; and in the motivation and dedication of its pharmacists. It also reveals the modesty of the pharmacists. Many Alberta pharmacists implemented numerous quality and innovative programs but rarely documented their accomplishments in the pharmaceutical literature. For example, in historical articles on hospital pharmacies, often the hospitals are described in detail but little information is provided about the pharmacies, the pharmacy staff, and the services provided.

The following brief chapter highlights a few of the hospital pharmacy milestones gleaned from historical documents and from the memories of our colleagues. Pharmacies and pharmacists profiled in this chapter reflect the information that was in the pharmaceutical literature, in Alberta Branch - CSHP minutes, and in the information provided in response to several membership requests to provide information. This chapter does not mention many noteworthy events, innovative programs, and outstanding pharmacies primarily because information was not available prior to publication.

## The Early Years

Hospital pharmacy in Alberta had its roots in the Northwest Mounted Police. In 1874, barracks were established in Fort McLeod with a member of the force serving as a distributor of drugs.

The growth of hospital pharmacy was reflected in the growth and establishment of hospitals throughout the province. In St. Albert in 1881, a hospital was built under the supervision of the Order of Grey Nuns, with the appointment

of fully qualified pharmacists in the hospital in 1882. These early pharmacies essentially were small drug closets – a situation that unfortunately exists in some of today's hospitals!

When the Calgary General Hospital opened, a contract was established between it and a city retail pharmacy. The pharmacy staffed the pharmacy with a qualified pharmacist during specified hours. Construction of a new hospital resulted in a full-time pharmacist being hired in 1916 - Miss A. Simpson of Innisfail.

In 1919, for the first time, licensed dispensers in hospitals of 100 beds or more were permitted to take on an apprentice. One extra apprentice was allowed for each 100 beds. Hospital dispensaries were approved by the Board of Health and were under their inspection.

Pharmacy in Alberta has always provided leadership to Canadian pharmacy – including hospital pharmacy. C. P. Christensen provided that leadership for hospital pharmacy in Alberta and Canada. He started in hospital pharmacy in 1922 and later was the head of the Royal Alexandra Hospital pharmacy.

In the 1935/36 APhA Annual Report, C. P. Christensen recommended a study of hospital pharmacy in its relationship to the community and to the profession. He stated that twenty years ago there was no hospital pharmacy and that hospitals were served by the local druggists part time. In 1936, he reported that in Edmonton there were six registered hospital druggists and three apprentices. Calgary had a few and Lethbridge and Lamont each had one. He felt that hospital pharmacy was a part of pharmacy that would continue to grow rapidly within the next few years to keep pace with the socialization of health services. He felt that the pharmacist in the hospital gave a definite service to the community, and it was somewhat different to the retail pharmacy as the hospital pharmacy was not concerned with profits or getting business. C. P. Christensen recognized that the hospital pharmacist could not always do as he wished as the pharmacist was not in direct control. He noted that in some hospitals it was hard to make hospital administrators realize that pharmacy was a profession just as much as medicine, and more so than nursing. C. P. Christensen felt that hospital administrators treated nurses as professional people with nurses getting more money and not taking the responsibility that pharmacists did.

In 1938, C. P. Christensen was nominated as a representative of hospital pharmacists to the meetings of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. He also served as secretary of the joint committee of the APhA and the Alberta Hospital Association (AHA). In 1939, a report on hospital pharmacies result-



ing from a resolution at the 1938 Alberta Hospital Association Convention and prepared by a committee including representation from hospital administration, retail pharmacy, hospital pharmacy (Mr. Christensen) and the Faculty was presented to the APhA and AHA. This report recognized that pharmacy service was essential and a responsibility of the hospital. It also stated that all hospitals with 100 beds or more already employed a full-time pharmacist. The report also recommended the establishment of a course for hospital pharmacists; that only hospitals with necessary facilities and equipment be approved for training apprentices; that only one apprentice be permitted for each graduate pharmacist employed; that adequate staffing be met for each hospital; that smaller hospitals have the option of contracting services from an approved local pharmacy or hiring a graduate pharmacist; that a minimum salary schedule be established; that minimum standards be established for hospital pharmacies; and that refresher courses for graduate hospital pharmacies be approved.

C. P. Christensen's foresight and enthusiasm resulted in the establishment of the Northern Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Association (N.A.H.P.A.) in 1939 – the first hospital pharmacists association in Canada!! The primary focus was the education of hospital pharmacists. The monthly meetings consisted of an informal dinner, an address from a guest-speaker and a round table conference on typical or unusual questions which arise in a hospital dispensary and how they can be dealt with by the pharmacist.

At this time there were two courses in Pharmacy – two years to become a licentiate of the APhA and a third year to a B.Sc. degree. The N.A.H.P.A. encouraged pharmacy students interested in a hospital career to choose their courses wisely and to include instruction in urinalysis, gastric and blood analysis.

This organization submitted to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal, a monthly column on hospital pharmacy, edited by Miss N. Thrasher of the University Hospital. The first column occurred in the May 1, 1940 issue and continued for about a year. The discontinuation of the column was reported to be coincidental with increasing opposition on the part of the retail pharmacists in the Edmonton area.

C. P. Christensen's focus on continuing education resulted in a refresher course at the APhA convention of 1940. This progress in hospital pharmacy was halted with his untimely accidental drowning in 1941. The Northern Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Association dissolved shortly thereafter. It is interesting to note that the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists did not come into existence until 1942 and the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists (CSHP) officially until 1950.



U. of A. Hospital Pharmacy  
Staff 1965  
l to r: Alan Samuelson, Bev.  
Broughton, Walter Maday,  
director, Leona Warshawski,  
Peter Ponich.

### The Development of the Alberta Branch – Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists

In 1951 a decade after the untimely death of C. P. Christensen, Alberta Branch, the fifth branch of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, was established. Walter Maday and Shirley McPhail spearheaded the movement. Walter served as its first president.

In 1952, a grant from the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Pharmacy enabled two active members of Alberta Branch to attend the Institute on Hospital Pharmacy, held in Toronto (Mother Immaculata, Administrator of St. Michael's Hospital, Lethbridge, and Sister Marguerita, a pharmacist in the same hospital). Lethbridge pharmacists compiled a hospital formulary in 1952.

In 1956, a seat on the council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association was established for hospital pharmacists – the first time hospital pharmacists were represented on a provincial pharmaceutical association. D. J. Stewart became the first hospital pharmacist representative. In 1958, Walter Maday became the second and served until 1965. In 1961, W. Maday became the 51st APhA president and the first hospital pharmacist to become a president of a provincial pharmacy association.

Alberta Branch held their annual meeting in conjunction with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in June 1953, during which seven papers were presented, two of which were given by hospital pharmacists, Sister Marguerita and Walter Maday.

Due to the small membership and the distances between major cities, one or two meetings would be held each year, at which all members would try to be present. Most meetings would be held in Calgary, Red Deer or Edmonton. Travelling was by car, at the members own expense and time. Once a year the meeting would be held in conjunction with the Alberta Hospital Association's annual convention.

Dale Christianson (Edmonton General Hospital), was credited for helping to influence the organization of both the Saskatchewan and Manitoba branches in 1953. His travels to Winnipeg and Regina helped provide the impetus for branch formation.

In examining minutes from Alberta Branch meetings throughout the decades, it was interesting how various topics seem to be timeless: salary discussions; staffing; trying to get hospital administration, government, or other health care professionals to recognize the value of pharmacy services; costing methodologies; hospital pharmacy consultant/liaison with government; and standards of institutional practice. The following was excerpted from the minutes of the Sunday, May 29, 1960 meeting of Alberta Branch - CSHP:

- Minimum remuneration for retail pharmacists working part-time in hospitals should be \$3.00 per hour.
- Suggestion that a 100 bed hospital should have a full time pharmacist. Recommendation made that it be pointed out to the Canadian Hospital Accreditation Board that a pharmacist is necessary in a hospital.
- Concern was expressed as to what should be charged to pharmacy costs (e.g. IV solutions, chemicals) as this could cause a great variation in pharmacy costs/patient day between hospitals.
- APhA was trying to have a pharmacist appointed as a liaison between the government and the practising pharmacists and have hospital pharmacists present at meetings with various hospital boards.
- A committee was established to suggest the duties and responsibilities of a retail pharmacist working in a small hospital on a part time basis.

By 1976, Branch membership had exceeded 70 members, the Branch newsletter was started, the Banff Seminar was a resounding success. In the early 1980s, the Executive Committee started using teleconferencing for meetings to encourage Executive Committee members from throughout Alberta. Previ-

ously, members of the Executive Committees tended to alternate between Calgary and Edmonton because of the time and expense associated with having meetings. Chapters were developed in Alberta North (formerly the Northeast Chapter), Central Alberta (formerly the Edmonton Chapter), and Southern Alberta (formerly the Calgary Chapter).

**Alberta North Chapter.** The Alberta North Chapter differs from the other chapters in that its members are usually sole-charge pharmacists in small hospitals from a wide geographic region. It was organized on November 17, 1983 due to the enthusiasm of Linda Poloway, then the pharmacist at Two Hills Municipal Hospital. The objectives of the chapter were to provide a means of communication among pharmacists working in small hospitals, most of them sole-charge, and many of them relatively new to the practice of hospital pharmacy. Sharing of new ideas of projects was advocated to increase the standards of practice without undue duplication. One of these projects has been a peer review audit which was substantially reviewed in September 1992 to comply with accreditation.

The Chapter provides a support network for information and buying and selling pharmaceuticals when minimum orders are difficult to meet. Meetings are held a full week-day four times a year in different hospitals in the region. Most of the members (about 15) attend all these meetings.

The Branch, under the direction of Linda Poloway, developed the Hospital Pharmacy Directory. This provides the addresses and phone numbers, names of pharmacy directors, and brief descriptions of services of all hospital pharmacies in Alberta. The latest edition was published in March 1992.

In 1988/89, the Branch's Award Program was established in recognition of and to show appreciation for deserving activities of Alberta Branch - CSHP members. The program was initially made possible by a grant from Merck Frosst. The Awards program was finalized in 1992 at which time there were eight award categories, three of which were specifically sponsored by manufacturers.

The Practitioner Award is presented annually to a member who has made significant contributions to hospital pharmacy in Alberta. Members going on to further pharmacy-related studies are eligible for the Scholarship Award. The Retirement Recognition is presented to all worthy candidates who apply and who are nominated. The Hospital Pharmacy Residency Grant and the Student Professional Development Grant assist residents and students in educational endeavors. The Upjohn Award recognizes a pharmacy residency project while the ICN Award is awarded to the hospital pharmacy resident with the best overall performance. The Lymphomed Grant consists of two \$1000 funds avail-

able to current branch members to assist in attending educational functions.  
Recipients:

Year	Practitioner Award	Scholarship Award	ICN Award
1989	Rosemary Bacovsky	Kim McNabb	Monica Zolezzi
1990	Cecilia Laskoski	Rosemary Bacovsky	Deanna Taylor
1991	Fred Rumpel	Robert Carr	Shaheen Nenshi
1992	Diane Calder	---	Shannon Jackson

In 1992, Alberta Branch is the second largest branch of CSHP with a membership of over 200. It meets twice a year - its semi-annual meeting in conjunction with the Alberta Hospital Association and its annual meeting in April or May. Each Branch and Chapter meeting consists of a business section and a continuing education session. In addition to these, the Branch usually has an additional education session in the fall and co-ordinates the annual Banff Seminar in March.

## Hospital Pharmacy and Pharmacy Education

Hospital pharmacists have a long history with educational programs, the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and the Red Deer College.

Meetings of Alberta Branch have always included an educational session along with the business session. The Banff Seminar and the Hospital Pharmacy Management Seminar are two outstanding examples and are described in detail later. Hospital pharmacists have long contributed to the education of students - participating as guest lecturers, providing orientation sessions, providing practicums, and providing residency programs. Involvement greatly expanded in 1982 when the clinical experience component allowed block time-tabling so that students could go to hospitals outside of Edmonton. A format is now in place to allow the Faculty members and representatives of hospital pharmacy to consult on program content and student placement. Hospital pharmacists also remain very active in lecturing. Hospital pharmacists were instrumental in the development of the pharmacy technician training program at the Red Deer College.

## Pharmacy Technician Training

In 1972, N. Gordon Johnson conducted a survey on "The Utilization of Non-Professional Personnel in Hospital Pharmacies in Alberta." The survey documented the need for the utilization of non-professional personnel and some

form of formal academic training for these people. He found that more assistants or aides could be used in such areas as counting, pricing, stock control, and stock ordering. He concluded his report by saying:

Directors of Pharmacy, I believe, must continue to assign more of the routine tasks to the assistants so as to enable the staff pharmacists to participate in the newer and very important areas of clinical pharmacy. There is a waste of both money and professional expertise when hospital pharmacists are compelled to perform very simple, mundane tasks that less trained and lesser paid persons could do; not to mention the effect on staff morale. This waste can no longer be justified.

It seems rather futile to spend time and money on safer, more efficient methods of drug distribution such as unit dose dispensing or other methods when, in many instances, no one, including Pharmacy, is aware of what is happening to the patient while he is being 'treated' with one or more of the many exotic medications that are available today. The only way to cope with this situation is get the pharmacist out of the pill counting room or stock room and allow him to monitor drug-profile charts, examine patient's charts, and place him in a patient-care team conference in or near the front row.

Following N. Gordon Johnson's survey, a committee on pharmacy technicians was established by Alberta Branch - CSHP with Herman Neufeld as chairman. The committee worked hard to convince the APhA that technicians were needed in Pharmacy and that a training program should be established. The APhA Council established a parallel committee of retail pharmacists to study the matter with the understanding that this category of professionals was not needed and was a threat to pharmacists. After many months of working separately, the committees decided to join forces and review the entire matter objectively. This new large committee was soon convinced that technicians were needed not only in hospital but also in retail. The APhA Council and Alberta Branch - CSHP then jointly sponsored a submission to Alberta Advanced Education to establish such a program. Red Deer College, without knowledge of this action, also proposed the establishment of such a program.

In April 1976, Herman Neufeld was hired by the College with the mandate of creating a course of studies, designing course content for all the courses, establishing and equipping a lab, soliciting from drug companies sufficient variety and quantities of drugs, taking applications and interviewing candidates, and to start classes by the second week of September. The program started on time with 16 students. H. Neufeld taught the program with help

only in the lab for four years. Merv Dusyk was then hired as a second instructor. M. Dusyk became the director of the program in 1981 when H. Neufeld left. The program continues today with some increase in the hospital pharmacy contents (e.g. sterile products). Class size is now 45+ with three full time staff.

**Banff Seminar.** After several years of frustrating attempts to have CSHP hold the Professional Practice Conference (PPC) in Western Canada on alternating years, Herman Neufeld, Alice Hinds, and Al Samuelson decided to hold a hospital pharmacy seminar in Banff. They guaranteed the Banff Centre a registration of 100 with an obligation to personally pay for the balance of registration including accommodation if the 100 was not achieved. Harold Lopatka, the Education Chairman of Alberta Branch - CSHP, planned and organized the seminar, in cooperation with the Alberta Branch Council. The seminar was held in March 1974 at the Banff Centre. The registration was 120. The Seminar was a resounding success that year and every year since. It was so successful that the other Western Branches were invited to participate in subsequent seminars. Consequently, the Banff Seminar is now coordinated by Alberta Branch with each of the British Columbia, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba branches being responsible for one portion of the program. The profits from the Seminar are shared proportionately and have contributed greatly to the individual provincial Branch budgets. In Alberta, profits provide the annual operating budget for the Branch and essentially have eliminated the need for a Branch membership fee!

The original goals of the Banff Seminar included:

- keeping costs to a minimum to enable the employee pharmacist to attend;
- holding the seminar in an area which would promote commitment to the whole seminar and not just a session here and there; and
- having a social component to allow people to mix and relax.

These goals have been maintained to this day and are responsible for one of the best (probably *the* best) continuing education seminars for hospital pharmacists in Canada. In 1992, due to the increasing number of registrants and limitations placed on the Seminar by the Banff Centre, the Seminar was moved to the Banff Springs Hotel. Because of the popularity of the conference, other seminars and meetings began to be held immediately preceding the conference. For example, in 1990, an international perspective developed with the American College of Clinical Pharmacy holding a one day

symposium immediately prior to the Seminar.

The success of the Seminar is due to the volunteer efforts of the organizing committees throughout the years. Each Seminar has continued to surpass the previous ones - always providing excellence in educational and social programs.

**Hospital Pharmacy Management Seminar.** In 1983, representatives from Eli Lilly Canada Inc. approached several hospital pharmacy directors seeking ideas on how Eli Lilly could assist hospital pharmacy management. Herb Dixon and Herman Neufeld suggested that a seminar specifically geared to the needs of hospital pharmacy managers be funded. Herb and Herman then planned and organized the first of such seminars. After a resounding success the first year in Alberta, the program has been taken by Eli Lilly and expanded to every region of Canada. It continues today, held usually in October in the Banff/Kananaskis area.

## **Hospital Profiles**

As discussed earlier, information on specific hospitals was often sketchy and obtained from Alberta Branch - CSHP minutes, pharmacist memoirs, and the information provided in response to several membership requests to provide information. Glimpses into the history of several hospitals are provided as a flavor of the activities occurring in Alberta hospital pharmacies. The evolution of pharmacy services in these facilities reflect the progress that was occurring in other urban teaching hospitals and in other rural hospitals. Most hospital pharmacies had their roots with on-call retail pharmacists, then part-time pharmacists, and finally full time hospital pharmacists. Services and programs grew from those based on drug distribution to those focused on clinical skills and utilizing the pharmacist as the medication use expert. The evolution of services also reflected the economic growth of the province with expansions occurring in the late 1970s and early 1980s and the restraints of the late 1980s and 1990s. The critical shortage of pharmacists in the mid 1980s is also reflected in reduction of hours of service and reduced programs.

## **Psychiatric Hospitals**

**Alberta Hospital Edmonton.** In 1949, Ben Blawacky, who had a Master of Pharmacy degree from Prague, was hired to operate the pharmacy of Alberta Hospital Edmonton. He left in 1957. His wife Helen Blawacky, another pharmacy graduate from Prague was hired to replace him. Neither obtained a license to practice pharmacy in Canada. In 1965, Victor Horon, a U of A





Bashaw General Hospital  
Pharmacy director George  
Darichuk, left, with Louise  
Darichuk. Vic. Horon, right,  
pharmacist at Alberta Hospital,  
Oliver, with Olga Horon.

graduate was hired to manage the pharmacy. Mrs. Blawacky stayed on as a technician.

In 1979, Joe Rohrer, formerly Director of Pharmacy at Rosehaven Care Centre, was appointed Director of Pharmacy, with Mr. Horon as a staff pharmacist and Mrs. Blawacky as a technician. Drug distribution was improved by implementing ward stock "modules". In 1981, pharmacy began receiving copies of physician orders and patient profiles were established.

In 1986, Mrs. Blawacky retired and Elaine Boyda, a graduate of the Red Deer College Technician Program was hired. A part-time clerical position was also approved. A second technician was hired in 1987 and controlled dose was implemented on several geriatric units.

In 1988, a review of pharmacy services by David Bougher, Alberta Health and Alan Samuelson, Director of Pharmacy, Red Deer Regional Hospital, resulted in additional positions being approved. Sherri Germaniuk was hired as the first Clinical Pharmacist. A newsletter "VOX Pharmaceutica" was published and an "in-house" computer system was developed and installed. In 1989, Ms. Germaniuk resigned and Monica Zolezzi became Clinical Coordinator. A third technician and another clinical pharmacist hired.

In 1990, monthly medication reviews were generated by pharmacy for all patients and medication administration records produced for all units on controlled dose. A third year pharmacy student was hired for the summer.

In 1991, two additional clinical pharmacists were hired and two fourth year students were accepted for practicums. Ms. Zolezzi won the Parke Davis Award for her presentation on "Implementing a Clinical Program in Psychogeriatric Units".

In 1992, two more fourth year students served a practicum and a second student was employed for the summer. The clerical position was increased to full time and the hiring of another clinical pharmacist brought the number of FTEs to eleven. The pharmacy is well on its way to achieving its goal of developing the finest clinical program in any psychiatric facility in Canada.

**Other Psychiatric Hospitals.** In 1970, Aaron Mann was requested by Dr. Pat Rose, Deputy Minister of Health to review pharmacy procedures at the Claresholm psychiatric care centre. Nurses were doing pharmacy work in many of the psychiatric hospitals. Mr. Mann also visited the other psychiatric hospitals and recommended that pharmacists be employed in all psychiatric care centres. This recommendation was slowly implemented and pharmacists were employed: Jim McGrath at the Claresholm and Raymond Care Centres; Herman Neufeld, Alberta Hospital, Ponoka; Jack White, Mitchener Centre, Red Deer; Sandy Galenza, Rosehaven, Camrose. Later, the Edmonton General Hospital provided pharmacy services for the Eric Cormack Centre. Soon, with Dr. Pat Rose's blessing, the psychiatric hospitals formed a provincial Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee. As a result a Pharmacy Products Purchasing Program was developed for the psychiatric care centres and the Aberhart Tuberculosis Hospital. Aaron Mann was made chairman of the program. Each pharmacist provided Aaron with their yearly requirements. The items were combined and tendered for. The program was a huge success with hospital stocks reduced by 75% and an annual savings of \$300,000 was realized. A national tender program for psychiatric drugs was developed with Herman Neufeld representing Alberta from 1973 to 1976.

## Calgary Hospitals

**Alberta Children's Hospital.** In 1958, pharmacy services at the Alberta Children's Hospital were provided by Gordon Henker on an on-call basis. As was common at this time, Gordon was a retail pharmacist and owner of Henker Drugs. In approximately 1960, pharmacy services were provided by Betty Laycraft on a part-time regular basis (mornings). She also worked in the drugstore that she and her husband, Charles Laycraft, owned.

In 1962, the Calgary Cystic Fibrosis Clinic was started. Medications were dispensed to outpatients of the clinic.

In about 1966, B. Laycraft left to be replaced by Harper Thornton and then Victor Lenko. In 1971, B. Laycraft returned on a full-time basis and was appointed Director of Pharmacy in 1971. At this time staff also included one pharmacy assistant and the pharmacy became involved with investigational drug use.

In 1978, B. Laycraft retired and Elaine McKenzie was hired as the Director. Staff also included a staff pharmacist - Diana Hirschmanner. The medication system was changed to Individual Patient Prescription with some wardstock. Pharmacy began receiving a direct copy of the physician's order.

The department continued to grow with the addition of a secretary. The Pharmacy/Nursing Liaison Committee was established. Medication profiles were introduced, the pharmacists started attending rounds and nursing Kardex rounds, and presenting rounds. The pharmacists were also involved with the asthma program and participated in codes.

In 1981, the new hospital opened with a change in focus to acute care including an emergency department and an intensive care unit. The Pharmacy moved into a new location in February 1981 and began the following services: unit dose drug distribution (March 1981), centralized IV additive (March 1981), total parenteral nutrition (August 1981), and publication of a pharmacy bulletin. A pharmacist became a member of the cystic fibrosis team while other pharmacists were assigned to patient care units as liaisons. Outpatient services were provided to cystic fibrosis and special need patients. Staffing increased to 12.5 FTE and hours to 14 hours/day, 7 days/week (March 1981). Pharmacy Technician students from Red Deer College were accepted for the practical training component of their course.

In 1982, an inpatient oncology service began with all chemotherapy doses prepared in Pharmacy.

In 1983, due to the critical pharmacist shortages occurring throughout the province, hours of service were reduced to 0800-2200h, 7 days per week.

In 1984, Donna Pipa became the Director and Pam Zedde, Supervisor. Staffing increased to 15.5 FTE and hours increased to 0700-2100 Mon-Fri; and 0800-2000 Sat/Sun. In June, the pharmacy bulletin, INTERACTION, became a bimonthly publication and pharmacy staff began to participate in house-staff rounds.

In 1985, fourth year pharmacy students were able to do clinical practicums at the hospital and a regular in-house education program was started for pharmacy staff.

In 1986/87, staffing increased to 17.5 FTE and outpatient services expanded to include the dispensing of growth hormone.

In 1988, staffing increased to 19.09 FTE; the pharmacy residency program began; pharmacy summer students were hired; there was more involvement



Herschell Fawcett, right, does some off duty dispensing for Peter Coyle and Bill Dickie

with fourth year pharmacy students; and the pharmacy participated in teaching rounds for medical residents.

A major reorganization occurred in 1989 with Donna Pipa remaining as the Director, Eldon Zaretski as Coordinator Drug Distribution and Dominique van Schijndel as the Clinical Coordinator. Staff increased to 19.7 FTE; hours to 0700-2200h, 7 days/week. The first Pharmacy Awareness Week was held in May.

1990 saw the opening of two pharmacy satellites - oncology in August and outpatient in October. Pharmacy also now participated with the hospital's Pain Service, in medical "Grand Rounds", the Annual Teddy Bear's Picnic, and Poison Rounds (with PADIS) for medical residents.

In 1991, pharmacy activities continued to increase with the hospital opening its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and a Bone Marrow Transplant Program. Its pharmacy residency program was accredited and staffing increased to 21.99. The Pharmacy also participated in the first Annual National Pharmacy Awareness Week in November 1991.

**Bethany Care Centre.** The Bethany Care Centre was owned and operated by the Lutheran Welfare Society. It started with 25-30 patients in the early 1940s and by 1974 had grown to 225 auxiliary beds. During 1970-74, David



The entire 1939 staff of the Calgary General Hospital Pharmacy, some 50 years later.  
l to r: Ken Penley, Dorothy Whiteman Boyce, Archie McLeod.

Maxim was the pharmacist and prior to him Fred Halliday who worked 2-3 mornings a week.

In August 1974, Herschel E. Fawcett became the sole charge pharmacist. By 1977, the institution had growth to 550 beds (425 auxiliary, 75 nursing home, and 50 senior citizens). In 1978, Herschel was appointed Director and had a staff of 5. In 1986, the drug distribution system was changed from ward stock to an individual prescription system using a 30 day cart exchange system. Herschel then retired and Wes Given became the Director.

**Calgary General Hospital.** When the Calgary General Hospital opened, the first pharmacy was in a small room in the old hospital on 12th Ave E in Calgary. A contract was established between it and a city retail pharmacy. Under this contract, the retail pharmacy was required to equip the pharmacy and staff it with a qualified pharmacist during 1100 - 1400h. Construction of a new hospital resulted in a full-time pharmacist being hired in 1916 - Miss Annie Simpson of Innisfail.

In 1920, Mr. Noel A. Farrow was appointed by the Board. Mr. Farrow also taught Materia Medica to the nurses until 1925 when the subject became part of the training school course. Mr. Farrow convinced the APhA to donate an annual prize of \$50 for the best nurse's mark in this course.

In 1925, Dorothy Whiteman (now Dorothy Boyce) became Chief of the Pharmacy Department. Her duties also included assisting in the laboratory because of her training in bacteriology. The dispensary was now two former hospital rooms in the basement of the hospital. When the depression oc-

curred and city relief for some included prescriptions, an apprentice and second pharmacist (Archie McLeod) were added by the City Relief Department. Miss Whiteman left in 1941 and was replaced by Dorothy McCaffrey (now Mrs. Dorothy Gibson). Muriel Naylor served as Chief from 1950-1952 when Iva Rupp assumed the position until 1974. Both Naylor and Rupp had worked at the pharmacy of the Holy Cross Hospital prior to working at the Calgary General.

Bryce Thompson next assumed the position as Director of Pharmacy. In his memoirs, Bryce reflected on his 34.5 years in hospital pharmacy, and commented on seeing the Pharmacy Department at the Calgary General Hospital grow from a staff of 5 in 1954 to 50 in 1988, with the Pharmacy Department being on two sites – Calgary General and Peter Lougheed Hospitals. Bryce was instrumental in establishing the clinical pharmacy program and the hospital pharmacy residency program.

Fruzina Pataky is the current Director of Pharmacy of the Calgary General Hospital's two branches which includes the Peter Lougheed Centre. The department has 29 pharmacists in its staff.

**Carewest.** The Calgary Auxiliary Hospital and Nursing Home, District 7 had the pharmacy services organized in 1961 by Charles A. Weston. This administration is now called Carewest and administers the pharmacies of the Fanning Centre, the Glenmore, Sarcee and Crossbow Auxiliary Hospitals. N. Gordon Johnson is the director of pharmacy. He was made an Honorary Life Member of APhA in 1992.

**Colonel Belcher Veterans Hospital.** The Colonel Belcher Veterans Hospital has had as its chief dispensers: William H. Upton, James Rhynes, Charles A. Weston, Charles Laycraft, Cecil Schultz, Trudy Holzmann, Fruzina Pataky, and Tim Engelhardt. This hospital has now closed its pharmacy and is serviced from the Calgary District Hospital Group.

**Foothills Hospital.** The Foothills Hospital, built by the province in 1966, had Robert Heim as its first director of pharmacy. Douglas Levy is the current director of pharmacy with a staff of 29 pharmacists.

**Holy Cross Hospital.** The Holy Cross Hospital had its dispensing done by the Sisters of the Order for many years. Peter McNab dispensed here in 1926 or 1927. Gweyn King became the first full time pharmacist in the mid 1930's and was followed by Rose Wannop, Helen Dickson, Fred Halliday, Fred R. White and Ethel Wythe. Don Frizzell was the Director of Pharmacy from



Cecil Schultz, director of Col. Belcher Hospital Pharmacy, 1966.



Harper Thornton, director of Pharmacy, Rockyview Hospital, Calgary, with secretary left and pharmacist Kay Wu right.

1957 to 1986. The staff grew considerably. Elizabeth Marles Moser became the Acting Director after Don's retirement. Alan Nutbrown is currently the chief dispenser with a staff of seven pharmacists. In 1963, Don Frizzell and staff of the pharmacy sponsored a "Drug Fair" in the auditorium of the Nurses Residence. 36 major pharmaceutical manufacturers representatives set up displays of their products. There was an excellent registration of physicians, nurses, student nurses, pharmacists and others to view the products on display. A few years later Mrs. Moser and her staff set up an excellent display which explained the work of the pharmacists to the public and to others on hospital staff.

**Rockyview Hospital.** The Rockyview Hospital pharmacy was designed and directed by Harper Thornton from 1963 to 1983. Stephen C. Long was the next chief of pharmacist and continues as the Director of Pharmacy for the Calgary District Hospital Group which also includes the Holy Cross Hospital and the Colonel Belcher Veterans Hospital. Kay Thompson has been an active pharmacist at these three hospitals and in 1992 was the recipient of the M.J. Huston Pharmacist of the Year award.

**Tom Baker Cancer Centre.** The Tom Baker Cancer Centre is headed by Carole R. Chambers and has a staff of eight pharmacists.

**Salvation Army Grace Hospital.** The Salvation Army Grace Hospital is staffed by two pharmacists and is presently managed by Sherry I. Krause.

## Edmonton Hospitals

**Charles Camsell Hospital** (excerpted from *The Camsell Mosaic*). Hal Gaetz was the first pharmacist at the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital and returned to retail pharmacy in 1948.

In the spring of 1948 Art Anderson was recuperating from a back problem in an ill-fitting body cast in Calgary when he learned that the Charles Camsell Indian Hospital had accepted him as a pharmacist and expected him to commence work at the earliest possible time. He arrived in his cast and with his luggage at the hospital and sat down to rest in the waiting room. A lady from the Admitting Office came over with forms to be filled out. The matter was soon resolved when Art explained he was not a patient but the newly-employed pharmacist.

The Pharmacy Department consisted of two rooms located across the hall from each other with a basement storage area under one of them. The hall joined the "Burma Road", probably given this name because of its length and the fact that it was the only traffic route connecting the farthest wards with the main building.

Drugs were purchased through the Central Stores of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) in Ottawa. They were requisitioned every three months and approximately six months' stock was always kept on hand. These drugs were, in some cases, custom-made for the DVA or the Indian Health Service and as such were generally not available elsewhere on the market. In the case of ferrous sulfate medication, this was probably just as well since some batches of these tablets were found to have a disconcerting ability to pass through the patient with no change whatsoever.

Art recalled how much he "enjoyed" working in the body cast, in the heat of summer, under low hanging steam pipes that ran through the main pharmacy carrying superheated vapor from the main boilers to some distant sterilizer or radiator. He also remembered volunteering for inclusion in a "mercy flight" to the Arctic for the purpose of assisting in taking inventory of surplus pharmaceutical supplies and surgical equipment. As well one was expected to aid in post mortems of the deceased. He found this useful work and guaranteed to relieve the tedium of the usual daily routine.

One of his other reminiscences involves the use of para-amino-salicylic acid (PAS) in the hospital as an anti-tubercular medicament. In the 1944 to 1950 era, interest in the chemical became very active and numerous research reports were published in the international literature. Such studies confirmed that, as an oral dosage form PAS was a promising new organic substance in the treatment of the disease.



A large shipment of white powder arrived one day. Art's assignment was to package the powder as individual doses for patient use. Since the dose required was relatively large, it was necessary to resort to powder papers - an awkward and labor-intensive procedure. In a very short time it became obvious that a better drug delivery system would have to be devised. Patient acceptance was not good, and numerous complaints were received regarding the persistent bitter aftertaste and gastro-intestinal upsets. Accordingly, it was decided to convert the insoluble PAS powder to a water soluble salt, make a flavored solution and then simply have the patients swallow their required dose.

To accomplish this purpose, a ten-gallon glass carboy was obtained to hold the required ingredients. The chemistry of the proposed reaction was not too involved. One simply added a solution of sodium bicarbonate to the PAS powder in the vessel, and the water soluble sodium salt of PAS formed at room temperature. The other product of this reaction was carbon dioxide gas, a normal part of the atmosphere and hence nothing to worry about.

The whole arrangement was set up in the pharmacy room one morning and the reaction was soon well underway. Since there was little for Art to do until the reaction was complete, he left the pharmacy to attend to other matters. Some time later that morning he dropped by to see if all was progressing as expected, only to be greeted by a river of white foam slowly crossing the hall from the pharmacy! On opening the door, he could see a seemingly unending stream of foam pouring from the mouth of the carboy. The entire floor was covered. It was apparent that the sheer volume of the gas mixture had proven too much for the narrow mouth to handle. Later in the day, after the clean up, arrangements were made to exchange the carboy for a similar size of crock. The problem was solved.

Art resigned in 1949 to accept an academic position with the then 'School' of Pharmacy. Ian Ellis was in charge from 1949 to 1955, David Ritchie until 1960, Norman Barth until 1965 and then Herbert Dixon. Herb had worked as a staff pharmacist in 1960-63 and then returned as director. In January 1974 Herb resigned to assume the position of assistant to the Director of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta Hospitals. Heather Gossen was the acting director of the Charles Camsell, followed by Susannah Plumley (to May 1975); Mavis Olsen (to October 1976); and Lloyd Pihulak (until present).

The main responsibilities of pharmacy centred around providing services to in-patients as well as maintaining an extensive out-patient service for registered Indians and the Inuit. The Pharmacy provided emergency medications, all vaccines, and consultation services to the federal government nursing stations and health centres in Alberta, the Yukon, and the Northwest Territories. Medications and pharmaceutical supplies were also provided for

the weather stations of the Atmospheric Environment Service, Environment Canada including Mould Bay, Eureka, and Isachsen. The pharmacy staff consisted of the director, two pharmacists, and two pharmacy technicians. Hours of operation were 0800 to 1700h Monday to Friday and 2-3 hours as required on weekends and holidays.

The transfer of the hospital to Metro-Edmonton Hospital District No. 106 on December 1, 1980 was instrumental in many fundamental changes in the pharmacy services. The provision of medications and supplies to the weather stations was discontinued. Services for the federal nursing stations and health centres were maintained but provision of vaccines was discontinued in 1983. The transfer from Medical Services Branch resulted in an increase in the number of patients admitted with an expansion of the services required. With the addition of more staff, a clinical pharmacy service for the medical units and an IV admixture service for one surgical unit were implemented.

The clinical pharmacy service was expanded to three medical units and the hours of operation extended to 0800-2000h Monday-Friday and 0900-1700h on weekends with a pharmacist on-call after hours. The present staff consist of the director, a clinical co-ordinator, five pharmacists, and three pharmacy technicians.

**University of Alberta Hospitals.** Peter Ponich, in his memoirs described the work at the University Hospital in his early years there as:

The pay-cut [from retail] was unbelievable, but the challenges and atmosphere made the difference. The hours were long and arduous and you were permitted to go home when finished and that was usually after nine to ten hours of work. There was no extra pay for over-time, for week-ends, for evening hours or call-back. Call-back was for one straight week, and with approximately six pharmacists on the roster - you were on every six weeks and more often during vacation period. ... Why did we stay? ... It was perseverance in the belief that Hospital Pharmacy was the area of the future. It happened.

The early directors of pharmacy included: Margaret Russell (1923-28), Bill Goldberg (1928-29), Ethel Norris (1929-32), J. M. Sissons (1932-45), Mary Wholey/Bell (1945-48), and W. W. Maday (1948-1976).

The UAH had a formulary in 1928, 1932, 1934, and 1938. In 1949, a revision was undertaken that did not get completed until 1954. This implanted the premise that computers are a must for formulary printing. (Commercial linotyping is too error prone!)



Christine Smith and Gerry Langford dispense at U of A Hospital Pharmacy.

Computing of drug inventory in hospitals became a major issue in the 1960s. To promote this, Walter Maday arranged a three day educational seminar for CSHIP focusing on computing. In order to proceed with computerization, Walter Maday solicited the help of Mary Bell (a former Director of Pharmacy at the University Hospital) to computerize the inventory. The system was based on the American Society of Hospital Pharmacy's Formulary numbering system. This process resulted in the University Hospital Formulary.

The University Hospital was one of the first Alberta hospitals to have residents. Its program started in 1963 with one of the first residents being Alan Samuelson.

The Outpatient Clinic at the University Hospital was licensed by the APhA in 1963 as a teaching aid for pharmacy students.

The Mosaic drug distribution system was in use at the University Hospital in 1972.

In 1972, the University Hospital Pharmacy was requested to take over the preparation of parenteral nutrition solutions from the nurses and physicians who were preparing the solutions on the nursing stations. Walter Maday, Director of Pharmacy, tried to formalize policies and procedures prior to starting preparation. However, Dr. Adrian Jones decided that he would no longer prepare the solutions and Pharmacy must start at once. Valerie Otto, Ann Garten and others pitched in and the solutions were prepared for the weekend.

In 1976, "clinical pharmacy" arrived at the University Hospital with Maureen Bain given the mandate to develop clinical pharmacy in the pediatric area.

Peter Ponich assumed responsibility shortly thereafter. During Peter's first medical round (with Dr. Brock Armstrong and his residents and interns), the first question was directed to him – "As a Pharmacist with expertise in every aspect of drugs, tell us how child ASA poisoning should be approached?" Peter responded well and a productive clinical relationship was started.

## Medicine Hat

Through the combined efforts of John Niblock, a division superintendent of the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) of Medicine Hat, and Albert Olver, a physician on contract to the CPR, the grandiose sum of \$24,601.71 was secured from government, corporate and individual sources to build the first hospital in the then Northwest Territories. On January 29, 1889, construction began with the removal of 240 cubic yards of dirt within six weeks by a horse-pulled fresones. Construction continued and was virtually completed within a year of the first contractor being hired.

The first patients were received on January 27, 1890. The two storey structure boasted the latest in medical architecture. Even then, as is now often the case, the pharmacy department was located in the basement along with two private wards for women, the nursing matron's parlor, the kitchen, the furnace and the coal room. The original staff consisted of two physicians and two nurses. Pharmaceutical duties were initially supplied by these individuals.

This continued until the 1950s when the pharmacy duties were provided by a radiologist, Dr. McEwan, whose department was located adjacent to the dispensary. Later came Donald King, a pharmacist with Liggett's Drug Store, who was hired on a part-time basis to perform the dispensary duties. On May 18, 1950, Effie Carson was the first full-time pharmacist. Records are non-existent as to the duties she performed, but it can only be imagined she faced many of the same issues we do today. She helped plan the new hospital with its dispensary located on the main floor next to the physician's entrance to allow easy access for consultation. The new hospital was five stories with a capacity of 244 beds and 48 bassinets. On July 31, 1956 duties were passed on to Fred Broadworth and then to Charles "Chuck" Meagher on May 29, 1957. Chuck was a University of Saskatchewan grad and had been employed at the University of Saskatoon under the directorship of J. L. "Jack" Summers.

Chuck recalls the old hospital pharmacy as a small main room with a small pantry to one side. The central supply department was adjacent to the dispensary and both departments shared one telephone. The phone was on the central supply side of the wall, with a hole in the wall for Chuck to reach through to answer the phone!

The new hospital was completed on November 27, 1957. The new dispensary saw the latest in modern pharmacy design. A dumb-waiter ran down the centre core of the hospital supplying both pharmacy and central supply to the five floors above. Individual prescriptions for a five-day supply were provided along with regularly used wardstock items. The pharmacy possessed its own "still" for a continuous supply of distilled water. The pharmacy had its own formulation for a mouthwash, hand lotion, normal saline for irrigation, respiratory solutions, as well as many other products. The pharmacy also possessed its own steam sterilization unit.

In 1963, the completion of the Dr. Dan MacCharles Auxiliary Hospital resulted in two separate buildings requiring pharmacy services. Pharmacy services were contracted from the hospital and Chuck maintained two separate dispensaries as each building had its own funding structure and board of directors. The Auxiliary Hospital was supplied with wardstock and prescription refills of a month's supply, twice weekly. The work schedule saw the General Hospital wardstock and prescription refills supplied Monday, Wednesday, and Friday with new prescriptions filled daily. The Auxiliary was done on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pharmacy hours were maintained on a Monday to Friday from 0800 to 1630h.

In the late 1970s, planning began for another hospital. Another Saskatchewan graduate, Alan Buckley, assumed the directorship in July 1979. He amalgamated the dispensaries and turned the Auxiliary dispensary into a sterile compounding area. Total parenteral nutrition was now an offered service of the department. The staffing was the director, a staff pharmacist, a part-time pharmacist as relief and two assistants.

In 1980, an additional pharmacist facilitated the implementation of pilots for a unit dose system. The computerized hospital pharmacy system required six months of training and data input prior to going live. During the next few years, the unit dose system was expanded to the majority of the nursing units and controlled dosage card system was implemented in the Auxiliary Hospital.

In 1984, Alan moved to the position of commissioning coordinator for the new facility. So, Larry Legare (a staff pharmacist since 1980) assumed the position of director.

The new hospital was started on June 10, 1982 and completed on September 26, 1986. The 3500 square foot pharmacy in the new hospital is located on the fourth level of the six level tower. The new pharmacy offers a full range of services including computer assisted unit dose distribution system, comprehensive IV additive, chemotherapy, TPN, and clinical services. Pharmacy is intimately involved in diabetic and cardiac care and education, palliative care, advance cardiac life support teaching. Pharmacists are also assigned to nursing units.

In 1990, the hospital opened a regional cancer centre as an outreach facility of the Tom Baker Cancer Centre in Calgary. As part of the operation, the pharmacy supplies all oral chemotherapy and IV chemotherapy in a pre-mixed/pre-drawn format.

This pharmacy has indeed made major advances since its humble beginnings a little over a century ago (as well as moving up to the fourth floor!) They see the emphasis shifting from inpatient to increased outpatient programs and services.

## Red Deer

The Red Deer Municipal Hospital set up a specialized Pharmacy Department in 1960. Previously their pharmacy requirements had been handled by nursing staff. A pharmacist was employed but in a very limited manner. Pharmacists employed included Jack White and Loreen Maben (1960-1967), G. Butterwick (1967-69), and Bob Fletcher (1969-70).

In 1970, the Red Deer Regional Hospital replaced the Municipal Hospital. This facility was much larger and required improvements in its pharmacy department to provide drug distribution and clinical services. Alan Samuelson was appointed Director of Pharmacy and had a staff of two pharmacists. Presently, in addition to the Regional Hospital, the Pharmacy Department serves the Auxiliary Hospital, three nursing homes, the Bowden Institute, and hospitals in Sundre, Rimbey, Eckville, Elnora, and Bentley, and the pharmacy needs for the Central Alberta Cancer Clinic. It also provides educational training for a pharmacy residency program, for the pharmacy technician students of the Red Deer College, and for undergraduate students from the Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Alberta.

A comprehensive unit dose and parenteral admixture drug distribution system is used. Inpatient drug therapy monitoring and a drug information service help encourage safe and appropriate drug therapy. Innovative technological advances in the field of robotics has recently been undertaken as a research endeavour.

Alan Samuelson moved to British Columbia and Linda Poloway was appointed the Director of Pharmacy.

## Stony Plain

The Stony Plain Municipal Hospital was opened on November 2, 1963. The pharmacy services were contracted out to the local drugstore owned by Murray Byers. Drug supplies for the hospital were purchased direct from the manufacturers, with emergency needs obtained from the drugstore. After

some years, Doug Cowan became the new owner of the drugstore and continued to supply the service to the hospital. Throughout those years, he was not aware of any actual pharmacy budget. He was on call 24 hours of the day, and remembers the night-time trips back to the hospital to re-stock the narcotic supplies.

In December 1980, the pharmacy contract was awarded to Peter Martin, owner of Stony Plain IDA Pharmacy. He assigned two pharmacists Madeleine Lehoude and Florence Henderson, to care for the hospital pharmacy on a rotating basis, contributing about 6 hours of service per week. This was the turning point of the changes to the Stony Plain Hospital pharmacy. These two pharmacists were young graduates who took an interest in the clinical aspects of pharmacy and began to revitalize the service. Their input into drug policies were solicited by the Director of Nursing and formal presentations by the pharmacy department were made at the medical staff meetings. In December 1981, pharmacy made a formal request for a review of the old 1978 drug formulary along with submissions on crash cart and outpatient medications. In July 1982, a review of the pharmacy services by Clarence Weppeler, hospital pharmacy representative on the APhA Council and requested by Thomas Novak, Administrator, brought to light many deficiencies in the department that required administrative support to correct. Two important issues were the pharmacists' hours and the lack of physical space. The pharmacy department was a cubbyhole that measured 12' x 7' but had a working space of 9' x 4'. The room was bursting at its seams (and through the split door!) as more drug products were stocked and activities grew.

In August 1982, the first meeting of a formal Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee was held. Since that date, regular committee meetings have been held, which has ensured continual revisions of all hospital pharmacy policies and services. By 1983, M. Lehoude had left the department. In May of that year, Florence Henderson was hired by the hospital as sole charge pharmacist to work 15-20 hours per week. At this time, the pharmacy was relocated into an attached portable along with hospital administrative services. This move benefited the pharmacy by providing dispensing space and proper equipment, such as a sink and a refrigerator. The following five years saw the greatest expansion in the pharmacy services at the Stony Plain Hospital. The drug distribution system remained wardstock but major changes resulted in medication binders and carts being used. Generic labelling of medications was instituted. The pharmacy budget was now handled by the pharmacist. Drug incident reports were reviewed and recommendations acted upon. Chart reviews and drug consultations were carried out by the pharmacist. An adverse drug reaction reporting program was established.



Florence Henderson,  
pharmacy director of Stony  
Plain Hospital 1990.

In 1986, a proposal was submitted to government for a unit dose drug delivery system but it was not accepted due to the poor economic conditions.

In 1988, the pharmacy hours were increased to 25 hours per week and for the first time, a part-time pharmacist was hired to replace Florence Henderson on vacation!

In March 1989, the pharmacy hours were increased to 0.8 FTE based on a recommendation from David Bougher, the Northern Regional Team Manager with Alberta Health. He had reviewed the pharmacy services in the latter part of 1988. His report was complimentary to the pharmacy services provided.

Since 1989 the pharmacy department has been involved with palliative care patients on continuous analgesia and with outpatients on intermittent antibiotic therapy delivered by computerized Pharmacia pumps. This service has been of great value to the community in meeting patient needs in the home. Streptokinase was initiated in the emergency department in 1990.

In 1990, the pharmacy became computerized for a stock control system. The computer system is being expanded to include dispensing and related functions. The newest equipment in the department is a biological safety cabinet which will see increased use as the types of parenterally-based clinical services evolve.

1991 was an important year for the Stony Plain Hospital and its pharmacy. All the previous activity in the department and final quality assurance preparations lead to accreditation in November 1991. The pharmacy continues to fine tune established programs and to accept new challenges to meet needs of patients and the health care system.



## Turner Valley/Black Diamond

The original Oilfields General Hospital was privately owned and operated by two "pioneer" nurses - Mrs. Cora Burke and Miss Mabel McLeod. With the donation of land, labor, and financial assistance from Royalite and Okalta Oil Co's., the hospital was constructed and opened in 1939 with 12 beds. It was located about one-half mile south of Turner Valley town. Pharmacy services were provided by Joe Korzcinsky, the retail pharmacist in Turner Valley. After 1950, the hospital ownership was turned over to the municipality. In 1983-84, the original hospital was closed and the new Oilfields General Hospital was constructed at Black Diamond with a rated capacity of 50 beds (25 active, 25 auxiliary). Pharmacy services continued to be supplied by local Black Diamond pharmacies. In 1986, Aileen MacNamee became the first pharmacist to provide "in-house" pharmacy services on a regular basis (mornings 5 - 10 hours/week). She initiated pharmacy policies and procedures and set up a combined ward stock and individual patient prescription drug distribution system. Aileen was succeeded by Jack Cargill for one year for the Extended Care division. In 1989, the hospital engaged a full time pharmacy technician and contracted out supervision of the pharmacy department (on a bi-monthly basis) to consultant pharmacist Herschel Fawcett.

## Vegreville

**St. Joseph's General Hospital.** A unique situation existed from 1949 to 1971 in the St. Joseph's General Hospital, Vegreville. The pharmacy, located in the hospital, was privately owned by Kay and Clifford King and operated under contract to the hospital.

## Summary

As documented in this brief chapter, hospital pharmacy and hospital pharmacists in Alberta have much to be proud of. They have and will continue to be leaders of hospital pharmacy in Canada.

What does the future hold for hospital pharmacy? The role of hospital pharmacists will be influenced by the continuing economic restraints; the focus on outcomes; the shift toward outpatient treatment; the aging of our population; the increasing cultural diversity; the evolving roles of all health care professionals; and high technology developments in drugs, drug administration, distribution, and health care in general.

I predict that pharmacists, regardless of practice setting, will be integral members or leaders of patient-centred health care teams. This latter prediction

will not just happen. It requires the proactive and concerted efforts of all pharmacists in providing pharmaceutical care and demonstrating their effect on health.

### **Presidents of Alberta Branch – Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists**

1952/53 Walter Maday	1973/74 Alice Hinds
1953/54 Dale Christianson	1974/75 L. A. Scollon
1954/55 Ian C. Ellis	1975/76
1955/56 H. Bennett	1976/77 Michael Bain
1956/57 Shirley McPhail/Forbes	1977/78 Herb Dixon
1957/58 Walter Maday	1978/79 John Brown
1958/59	1979/80 Clarence Weppler
1959/60 Charles "Chuck" Meagher	1980/81 Bob Heim
1960/61 Chas Laycraft	1981/82 Linda Poloway
1961/62	1982/83 Cecilia Laskoski
1962/63	1983/84 Fred Rumpel
1963/64	1984/85 Alan Buckley
1964/65	1985/86 Larry Legare
1965/66 Bryce Thompson	1986/87 Doug Levy
1966/67	1987/88 Rosemary Bacovsky
1967/68 Don Frizzell	1988/89 David Wing
1968/69 Peter Ponich	1989/90 Eldon Zaretski
1969/70 Harper Thornton	1990/91 Donna Pipa
1970/71	1991/92 Mavis Olsen
1971/72 Peter Ponich	1992/93 Peggy Hemstock
1972/73 N. Gordon Johnson	

#### **Hospital Pharmacists Who Were President of APhA:**

Walter Maday                      Ron Schuster                      Clarence Weppler

#### **Hospital Pharmacists Who Received Honorary Life Memberships in APhA:**

N. Gordon Johnson              W. W. Maday

#### **Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Who Were President of CSHP:**

Rosemary Bacovsky              Dale Christianson              Alan Samuelson

Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Who Received the Meritorious Service Award  
from CSHP:

Herb Dixon	Cecilia Laskoski	Fred Rumpel
Alan Samuelson	Bryce Thompson	

Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Who Received the Distinguished Service  
(Ortho) Award from CSHP:

Alan Samuelson

Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Recognized as Fellows in CSHP (FCSHP):

Rosemary Bacovsky	Walter Maday	Fred Rumpel
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Alberta Hospital Pharmacists Recognized as Fellows in the American  
Society of Hospital Pharmacists (FASHP):

Rosemary Bacovsky

*Many pharmacists contributed to this chapter. In most cases the wording provided was used unaltered. The author would like to thank the following for their assistance: Dianne Calder, Herschel Fawcett, Don Frizzell, Gordon Johnson, Cecilia Laskoski, Florence Henderson, Victor Horon, Larry Legare, Aaron Mann, Walter Maday, Herman Neufeld, Ken Penley, Lloyd Pihulak, Donna Pipa, Peter Ponich, Joe Rohrer, Bryce Thompson, and Harper Thornton.*

## Support Groups, Associations, Societies

by J. K. Penley

PHARMACISTS OF ALBERTA spent much of their professional life confined within the four walls of their dispensary and pharmacy. This has been particularly the case where one pharmacist worked alone which was very common in the early days of pharmacy in the province.

These men and women were grateful for the existence of support groups which provided services and social contacts. Many pharmacy students were assisted financially through bursaries and scholarships awarded by auxiliary or associated organizations.

Pharmacists also found their own local associations or societies, while performing a business function for them, to provide at times an educational forum, an outlet for expression and an excellent opportunity to socialize with colleagues.

Medical detail representatives and salesmen calling on pharmacies had their own associations which were very active for many years. These not only provided companionship, services and social activities for members, they interacted with colleagues and friends in the retail field.

The history of some of these organizations is presented below:

### **Edmonton Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary**

In the fall of 1955, Jim Thorsley, then president of the Edmonton and District Druggists Association, proposed the idea of organizing the wives of the pharmacists. Mr. Thorsley felt that such an organization would be of benefit to the Edmonton pharmacists in entertaining and hosting the 1958 Canadian Pharmaceutical Convention to be held in Edmonton.

Louella Phillipson and Rae Christopherson formed a committee of themselves together with Mary Sanders, Phyllis Neely, Stephanie Holeyton, Mona



Edmonton Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary 1958  
front (l to r): Joan Boddy, Gloria Hladun, Pat Anderson, Mona Hodgins  
rear (l to r): Arlyn Cooke, Vivian Wylie, Julia Riedel, Louella Phillipson, Winnie Lesick

Hodgins, Myrtle Thorsley and Esme Byers. The members met on a regular basis to discuss the many aspects of this endeavour.

In January of 1956 the committee felt it should bring together all the wives of pharmacists so as to get their opinion. This general meeting was held March 16th 1956 at the Glengarry Club. Fifty-five interested ladies attended and accepted the proposal. Arrangements were made to hold our election of officers at the meeting in the fall. The first executive of the "Edmonton Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary" was :

President: Rae Christopherson  
Honorary President: Helen Huston  
Vice-President: Anna Chornell  
Secretary: Mona Hodgins  
Treasurer: Noreen Murray  
Phoning: Myrtle Thorsley  
Publicity: Louella Phillipson

Soon it became obvious that we needed to determine our Aims and Objectives. Another committee was appointed to draw up a constitution

which instructed the organization to (a) foster and stimulate among its members interest in the improvement of health and welfare in the community; (b) to support and aid the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, The Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta; (c) also include the wives of the drug travellers, then known as the Northern Ambassadors. These guidelines no doubt, have assured the very existence of the Auxiliary.

The next task was to devise methods of raising funds to cover expenses and to bring our aspirations to fruition. Our first projects were bake sales and teas. For many years we were able to support the Mental Health Drive for Funds and we supported sending two children to a Diabetic Camp at Lake Isle. We charged 35 cents for tea and it was amazing how far that money went to accomplish such feats! We held small raffles at our monthly meetings; we sold tickets on commission for other groups; we held Dutch auctions and white elephant sales. The Canadian dollar paid for much more than it does today. In 1959 a 'logo' was designed for our ELPA Membership Pin, which we all purchased and wore with pride. The retiring presidents were presented with an engraved silver tray at the conclusion of their term.

In 1963 we were able to establish a Pharmacy Undergraduate Scholarship of \$100.00 which was increased to \$500.00 in 1985. In 1974 we held our first Poinsettia Ball and in 1992 enjoyed our 19th year of these gala events. The proceeds have enabled us to provide fairly substantial sums toward the construction of the Sun Drug Store on 1920's street in Fort Edmonton Park, which became our main project.

Over the years we have donated to Alex Taylor City Community School such items as computer software and fees toward their Cubs and Scouts. We spearheaded the first residential canvas for the Heart Fund Drive in 1960. We have donated to the Cancer Society, Win House, Oakville Boys Ranch and the University Hospital Burn Unit. In 1984 we produced a cook book on 'Potatoes' that yielded a fair profit. This was our second venture into publishing, the first having been 'Klondike Kapers' Under the convenorship of Burchell Agnew, ELPA undertook a mammoth Fashion Show at the Edmonton Inn. We started manning the Hospitality Suite during the annual A.Ph.A. conventions in Edmonton and Jasper. The net proceeds were \$700. Also we have received contributions and support from the Drug Wholesales, Cosmetic firms, Drug Stores and Pharmaceutical Companies.

Our Honorary Presidents to date have been the wives of the Deans of Pharmacy; Helen Huston, Lois Bachynski and Violet Moskalyk. They have assisted us in our annual membership drives.

A monthly newsletter informs the membership of current and coming events. Every fall we hold a traditional candlelight ceremony when the elected officers are installed.



Membership at Pointsetta Ball 1988

front (l to r) Norma Stanley, Lois Bachynsky, Stella Baydala, Velma Logan, Lillian Ewasuk, Winnie Lesick, Gloria Hladun  
 middle (l to r) Colleen Zawislak, Emily Maday, Alice Stepa, Louella Phillips, Mary Ambrose, Mildred Moore, Erma Nash, Marg Tredenmann, Olga Chorny, Mary Poohkay,  
 Donna Galarneau, Ann Sereda, Jean Kuharsky, Sylvia Foo, Maxine Moesch, Pat Anderson, Olga Dowling, Rae Christopherson  
 back (l to r) Nadia Shipka, Vi Moskaliuk, Olly Kochan, Brenda Platzer, Ruth Nolan, Jackie Kallai, Joan Boddy, Olga Horon, Thile Samyria

From the many talented members came the birth of the skit "The Shooting Of Rx McGrew" which proved to be a big success at the C.Ph.A. convention. Some of the stars were: Gloria Hladun, Lil Taylor, Mona Hodgins, Meg Rowley, Rae Christopherson, Phyllis Neeley, Grace Baker, Bernice Gregory, Joan Boddy, Marg. Tiedeman, Arlyn Cooke and Louella Phillipson. Many mini skits followed thereafter. In 1972 a glamorous production of "My Fair Lady" was produced for another Canadian Pharmaceutical Convention. It was a breathtaking sight with the ladies dressed in colourful frills, lace gowns with matching parasols. With the foresight of our leader, all our productions were filmed and every year we sit back in our recliners and ooh! and ah! at our performances.

Apart from the serious programs which included notable and informative speakers, our meetings had flare and fun from delicious potluck suppers to ethnic extravaganzas. With our ladies all decked out in costumes we had a taste of Hawaii, Mexico, Italy, France, Hungary, Ukraine, England and the pipes and haggis on Robbie Burns night. For the fashion conscious we held occasional fashion shows. One year that is memorable was the evening we modelled the hats created by our members under the guidance of our instructor, Gloria Hladun. In recent years our hidden talents turned to pottery under the supervision professional of potter Bonnie Balanko. We recall the great potato debate from which sprang the idea of the "Potato" cook book.

Every year we have a "Ladies Day Out". Here is Velma Logan's recipe: "Take one beautiful day, a handful of pharmacy wives looking for adventure, a great place to eat and meet, and you have the ingredients for a rewarding experience". We have highlighted multi-cultural centres, Botanical Gardens, unique shopping malls and even had a day playing the horse races at Northlands. An annual Strawberry Pool Party is held at the home of Stella Baydala where from desserts to napkins and dress, the theme is strawberries. Our November meetings are held at the Blue Flame Kitchen at Northwestern Utilities Gas Co.. We come from the meeting with Christmas recipes to spice up our Christmas Season.

A pictorial history of the Edmonton Ladies Auxiliary is retained in seventeen albums. It is kept up-to-date by the Archives Committee. A highlight of 1989 was the placing of the Auxiliary history in a "time capsule" jointly with the A.Ph.A. Archives Committee, in the corner stone of the Sun Drug Store at Fort Edmonton Historical Park. On May 9th 1991 this drug store was officially opened when Gloria Hladun and Jim Wylie cut the ribbon on behalf of the two organizations.

Every five years we remember our Special Anniversary with a formal banquet. We reminisce about the past but we take a moment to remember





Sun Drug Opening, Fort Edmonton 1991

l to r: Gloria Hladun, Pat McLaughlin, Stella Baydala, Donna Galarneau, Muriel Boake, Tillie Samycia, Joan Boddy, Emily Maday, Olga Chorny, Velma Logan, Rae Christopherson

those who have passed on. On the occasion of our 35th anniversary, talented member Olga Chorny compiled a souvenir booklet entitled "Memories". In May 1991, we celebrated our 35th Anniversary with breakfast and golf at the West Edmonton Mall and the day was climaxed by a banquet at the Royal Glenora Club in the evening. We were pleased to have such a large attendance of Charter members. A plaque for "Outstanding Service" was presented to Jean Hawker a charter member who will celebrate her 90th birthday in March 1992. For entertainment we viewed a Video depicting our entire history. Fraternal friendships are very important to this group, for it is sharing and caring that we remain as the only Ladies' Pharmaceutical Auxiliary in Canada today.

In 1974 president Winnifred Lesick initiated the Poinsettia Ball, a gala charity ball which supports our various commitments. The head table is piped into the ballroom and the Proclamation is read. Under the skilful and artistic guidance of Gloria Hladun and her decorating committee, an ordinary ballroom is transformed into a Christmas Wonderland of red poinsettia, greenery and sparkling lights, the focal point being the spiral poinsettia tree.

In June 1989 the Edmonton Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary received a Certificate of Recognition at the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association convention in Ottawa. Another special Certificate of Recognition was received June 1988 from the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association and also, in 1987, a

Community Service Award from the Alex Taylor school in Edmonton.

After 35 years of existence there are in 1991, 48 members still active. All have received much satisfaction from worthwhile undertakings. Life-long friendships were begun when we were young women and now many of us are grandmothers and some are even great grandmothers. As members move to other areas there is correspondence and so the 'family' has remained closely knit.

Presidents:

1956-57	Rae Christopherson	1974-75	Winnifred Lesick
1957-58	Louella Phillipson	1975-76	Velma Logan
1958-59	Julia Reidel	1976-78	Barbara Verchomin
1959-60	Gloria Hladun	1978-80	Rae Christopherson
1961-63	Velma Logan	1980-82	Madonna Galarneau
1963-64	Arlyn Cooke	1982-84	Olga Chorny
1964-66	Winnifred Lesick	1984-86	Velma Logan
1966-68	Genevieve Taciuk	1986-87	Stella Baydala
1968-70	Marg Tiedemann	1988-89	Lillian Ewasiuk
1971-73	Louella Phillipson	1989-91	Norma Stanley
1973-74	Gloria Hladun		

*This history was written by a group headed by Gloria Hladun and included Winnifred Lesick, Rae Christopherson, Velma Logan, Norma Stanley and Louella Phillipson.*

## Calgary Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary

An attempt to form a bridge players club of spouses of pharmacists was made by Anne Irwin as early as 1958 but this did not continue. In 1963 Eileen Clarke approached others with the concept of forming a social group of women associated with pharmacy, in and near Calgary, which might act as a service club to assist needy and worthy groups. Frances Shapter agreed and the two women found that the response was overwhelming and thus was formed "The Ladies Auxiliary To The Calgary Retail Druggists and Drug Travellers".

Meetings were first held in a room above Maclin Motors on 11 th Ave. & 1 st.St.S.W. then later, larger premises were needed and found above another car dealership on 9 th Ave. S.W.

The first executive consisted of:

President: Eileen Clarke

Vice-President: Jerry Hutton

Secretary: Dorothy Day



Calgary Ladies Group early 1930s

back (l to r): Dorothy Whiteman (Boyce), Mrs. Ben Franklin, Mrs. V.E. Hessel  
front (l to r): Mrs. Glad Grant, Mrs. Gerry (Frances) Shapter

Some other early presidents included: Jerry Hutton, Dorothy Day, Frieda Matthews, Shiela Doland, Dorothy Altilio and Marg. McKeague.

At most meetings there was a speaker or craft demonstration. Their first benevolent act occurred two or three months after organizing and consisted of giving a hamper of food and toys to a family whose husband and father had been sent to prison for murder. Then Grace Pollock suggested they support the Christine Meikle School for the mentally retarded and they did so. For several years, Grace and Charlie Pollock arranged and operated an annual whist night for all members and spouses and it was always well attended. Later the group initiated an award of a bursary of money to be awarded to the outstanding female student enrolled in pharmacy at the University of Alberta.

The Ladies Auxiliary assisted with social functions when the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association conventions were held in Calgary, usually every second year at that time. In 1965, when the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association was to be held in Calgary with J.T. Clarke as general chairman, his wife Eileen acted



Members of the C.L.P. Aux.  
Entertain 1957  
l to r: Prue Penley, Doreen Kirby,  
Ann Harriot, Sheila Doland

as Ladies Committee chairman and attended all committee meetings. Almost all members of the Auxiliary helped. Frieda Matthews, Marg. McKeague and Freda Westrop staged an old time dress fashion show. Muriel Cameron hosted a large tea party at her home for ladies attending the convention.

Each year a Christmas party was held for the ladies of the Auxiliary in some members home. A very slim Frieda Matthews is remembered as dressing and acting as Santa Claus at one such. A Halloween party at the Stampede grounds for members and spouses was held and well attended. A well-disguised Jimmy Clarke fooled all as a cigarette girl.

Members wore a membership lapel pin which was in the shape of a mortar and pestle. The pin was of a design used by the Edmonton Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary with initials thereon changed to C.L.P.A. By now the name of the association had been shortened to the Calgary Ladies Pharmaceutical Auxiliary.

No one seems sure just why but this very active auxiliary ceased to exist. Records and minutes of meetings have been misplaced. While active this Auxiliary provided some good times for those associated with pharmacy in Calgary and helped many underprivileged individuals and groups.

A partial list of members:

Doreen Hagen, Eileen Kalbfleisch, Mrs. A.A. Kier, Winifred Halliday, Katie Mitchell, Eileen Clarke, Lillian McKibbin, Catherine McKechnie, Jerry Hutton, Grace Pollock, Elsie Smith, Dorothy Day, Prue Penley, Charlotte Beaton, Freda



A few members of the Calgary  
Pharmaceutical Auxiliary  
l to r: Muriel Cameron, Mrs.  
McAdam, Pat Coyle, Marg.  
McKeague

Westrop, Pat Coyle, Jean Moore, Kay Marles, Peggy Marles, Frances Shapter, Frieda Matthews, Hanna Wylie, Emily Esdale, Olga Young, Shiela Doland, Gladys Grant, Bernice Weston, Wanda Campbell, Maureen Murphy, Dorothy Altilio, Mary Mortimer, Mary Roberge, Dorothy Douglass, Margaret McKeague, Muriel Cameron, Dorothy Humeston, Anne Irwin, Dorothy Mason, Joan Powell, Leona Newinger, Dora Ingleson, Betty Levy, Bev Elder, Dorothy Christie, Eileen Crooks, Myrtle Black, Maida Rook, Sharon Antoniuk, Dorothy Geddes, Sheila McDougall, Winnifred Kerr, Mrs. Gauthier, Louise Darichuk, Elaine Oliver, Doreen Kirby, Kathy Wilson, Connie Morrison, Lorena Bamforth, Lorraine Snelgrove, Lucille Hanson, Sue Weiker, Sherry Lissack, Clover Stewart, Dora Logan, Mary MacAulay, Alice McLeod, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Bill Campbell, Betty Greig, Betty Laycraft, Audrey Crooks, Mrs. M. Makowichuk, Oriel McIntyre, Joan Ritchie, Marj. Irwin, Zelda Dickey.

*The Archives Committee thanks the following for much of the above information:  
Eileen Clarke, Freda Westrop, Margaret McKeague and Prue Penley.*

## Commercial Drug Travellers Organizations

Travelling salesmen, in the early days of the province, experienced many difficulties. They often had to carry heavy sample cases, even trunks of goods, and to do so relied heavily on rail transport to cities and towns. This often

required lengthy lay-overs to observe train schedules and no doubt the presence of fellow travellers provided welcome company and formed friendships. As automobiles became more common and more reliable, many commercial travellers, for companionship and economy, used one vehicle to transport two or more salesmen on road trips. Road conditions, especially after rain or snow, added to their problems. It would seem natural that strong friendships would develop through these experiences.

In those early days these men would often be away from home for three out of four weeks, covering widely scattered communities over the entire Province of Alberta plus parts of B.C. and Saskatchewan and the North West Territories. Christmas week at home with family was denied to many who had to travel by train to sales conferences in Ontario or Quebec, leaving the day after Christmas and returning by New Year's Day. Wives of these men were faced with a lonelier life than most and some raised their families almost single-handed.

Among those who called upon drug stores, pharmacies and hospitals were two main groups with different duties. Some called with only merchandise to display and sell. Others represented pharmaceutical manufacturers who made products mainly for prescription use. Those representing the latter were, until recent years, nearly all pharmacists and had the double duty of calling on pharmacists and as well making "detail" calls to physicians and hospitals. These travellers were representing what were called the "ethical" firms, a possible mis-use of the term, as other firms were not necessarily less ethical. Those medical detail representatives were required by their firms to conform to a dress code which required the wearing of a fedora or derby hat, suit with matching coat and trousers and polished black shoes. Their car was expected to be washed and to be kept dust free by the driver. When calling upon a pharmacist, ones hat was always to be removed when entering the dispensary.

Many Alberta pharmacists will remember Fred Tilston who represented the Sterling Drug Co. as a travelling salesman in this area and who later rose to become president of that company. As Major Tilston, he was awarded the Victoria Cross in 1945. At our request, Fred wrote of his experiences which would be typical of the lives of many of the "travellers" of those days:

What was Alberta like in the years 1933 to 1937 that I worked in that province? Calgary had a population of 85,000 and Edmonton 80,000. Except for a few miles of paved road, most roads were gravel, graded dirt, ungraded dirt to prairie trails. If it looked like rain, one had to forget everything and get back onto gravel. One time in my first year I tried to

drive across country in light rain from Consort to Provost. It resulted in three times stuck in gumbo, one night in a farmer's home, a second night in a grain elevator at Bodo and finally the third night at Provost. 52 hours to travel 40 miles.

Then in summer there were grasshoppers and dust storms. The former clogged your car radiator and coated the wind shield with juicy spatters. The latter resembled a day long drive through a blizzard of talcum powder. But there were compensations.

The fall brought the hunting season. In the 1930's, ducks, grouse and partridge were plentiful and after September 1st I always had my shotgun in the car. Calling on a customer in rural Alberta the usual conversation went something like this; Q: Have you got your gun? A: Yes, I have. Q: Then get it and change your boots. We are just in time for a night shoot. Returning after dark with our limit, business was entered into and completed then on to the next town for the next night.

There were times when the only accommodation was a room over the Chinese restaurant. It was "Spartan" but what could one expect for \$1.00? My arrival in Calgary was a bit different at the Palliser (or Plasterer or Paralyzer). There I met an old friend Jack Reynolds who had worked with me in Toronto in apprenticeship days and was now selling Pepsodent tooth paste.

I met many pharmacists and salesmen in the province and to name a few and omit many is unfair but a happy memory requires some to be mentioned. There was Ed Kadlec of Liggett's, Vere Carmichael of J. & J., Bert Bertrand and Art Heyes of Alberta National, Ab West and Bob Duff of Temple-Duff Drug, Billy McGill, a gentleman of the first water, The Boylans of Medicine Hat, Ernie Stokes and Syd Jackson of Lethbridge, Harold Christie, Alan Sloane and Dick Holeton of Edmonton, Jake Warner the A.Ph.A. president and great guy, Gerry Shapter of the Frosst Co., Earl Bunston, Vic Hessel and Fred King. I could go on... In Calgary I met Keith Norris of Stevens and formed a life-long friendship which still exists.

In Edmonton I met a girl, Helen Adamson. After the war we were married and we had 28 years of happiness together.

So it is after working and living in Alberta, I learned to love the fascination of ranch land space, the beauty of the foothills, the magnificent sunsets and the majesty of the mountains. But it is the people who have made it what it is and what it has grown to mean to me. It is the members of my profession and those associated with it that I miss.

## The Alberta Range Riders

Salesmen who called on the drug trade in Alberta were mostly based in Calgary or Edmonton and after a week on the road would often gather at the wholesale, then the Alberta-National Drug, in those cities on Saturday mornings to turn in their orders, check their stock and of course visit with one another. Perhaps arising from these gatherings, a formal organisation of drug salesmen was formed in Calgary in the 1930's or 1940's and they called themselves the Alberta Range Riders. Their first meetings were held on the second floor of the Alberta National Drug building on 7 th Ave. S.W.. Later meetings were held in various locations once monthly on a Friday evening then later on Fridays at noon.

Records are missing but it is believed that some of the early organisers of the Range Riders would include Ben Franklin (Wampoles), George Noel (Stevens-Alberta), Bob Westrop (Wyeth), and Gerry Shapter (Frosst). It has been suggested that their first president was Vere Carmichael (Johnson and Johnson). A metal bell and gavel was obtained, with a figure of a salesman with brief case on top, with which the chairman would call the meeting to order. Inscribed on the base were the names of all those who had served as president, but this centre-piece has been misplaced. However memories have provided the names of some of those who filled this office and include: Cliff Rogers (Parke-Davis & Co.), Bill Rathbone (British Drug Houses), Bob Day (Van Zant,Ortho,McNeil), Gordon Berry (Kodak), Ole Olson (Squibb), Roy Collver (Jergens), Dave Hurst (Parke-Davis & Co.), George Jordan (Ayerst), Bill Doland (Robins), Don McIntyre (Sterling,Knemark), Ed Ingelson (Robins), Hap Geddes (Johnson and Johnson), Jim Hutton (Sharpe & Dohme), Bert Coffin (Frosst), Mike Comessotti (Bristol), Hilton Staynor (Arlington-Funk), Russ Malyon (Warner-Chilcott), John Haryett (Viobin), Bill Morgan (Wyeth) and Ted Olson (Squibb).

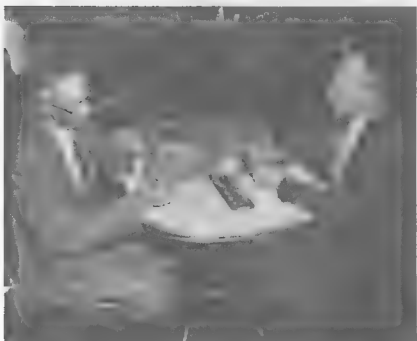
Many social events were arranged for members. There was keen competition for the Hudnut Trophy, awarded to the top cribbage player. An annual Christmas party for families with emphasis on the children was a popular event.

The Range Riders sponsored a dinner and ball once each year which became the social event of the year in pharmacy circles of Calgary and district. Retail pharmacists and wives were also invited. A generous gift parcel was given to each couple consisting largely of products donated by drug and cosmetic firms. For many years an elaborate presentation ceremony, to introduce a new cosmetic or toiletry product as a gift for each lady, was arranged by member Frank Grimstead (Hudnut-DuBarry).





Fourth Annual Range Riders Round Up committee  
back (l to r): Bert Coffin, Bob Westrop, Bob Day, George Noel, Ole Olson, Stu Mason  
front (l to r): Miss Noreen Noel, Miss Joyce Coffin



Fast and furious pegging highlight a cribbage play-off between A. F. "Mac" McKibbin (left) and R.B. "Esty" Estabrook at a Range Riders meeting. (photo from *Drug Merchandising*, November, 1952)



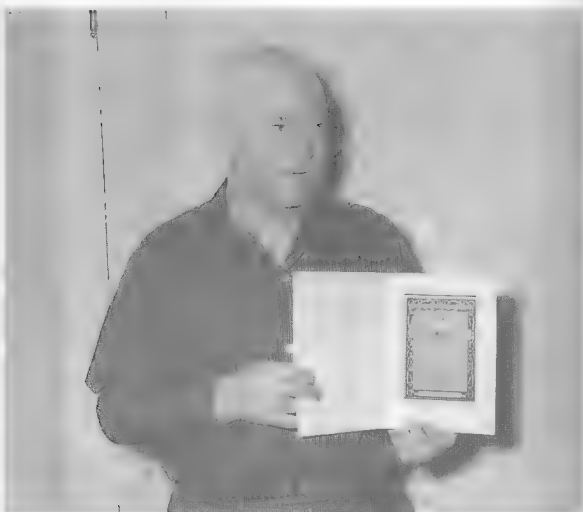
The final game of the tournament spelled victory for "Mac" McKibbin, seen here receiving the Hudnut Trophy from the previous holder, Jack E. Corbett. (photo from *Drug Merchandising*, November, 1952)



Range Riders Banquet and Ball 1954  
seen around the table (l to r): Ed Ingelson, Ole Olson, Ross Marshall, Bob Westrop,  
Art Warr, guest Roy Prevost



A Range Riders Welcome  
back (l to r): Vince Harrigan, (?), Cliff Rogers, (?), Jack Butchart, (?)  
front (l to r): Bob Day, Bert Coffin, Gerry Shapter, Dunc McGregor



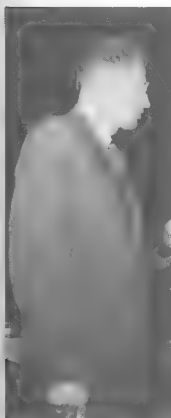
Mel Cragg:  
Honorary Life Member of the  
Northern Ambassadors

## The Northern Ambassadors

It was decided by sales representatives based in Edmonton, that they should have a club similar to the Range Riders in Calgary. In 1952, four or five salesmen met at the home of Dunc McPherson, they being Dunc. (B.& W.), Gordon Reddick (Ciba), Don Stewart (Sharpe & Dohme), and possibly Hugh McKerrach (Winthrop) and Ron Davis. They presented their ideas to a group of 17 others who later met at the Corona Hotel and decided to proceed. All present had to suggest a name for the new club and that put forward by Arnold Cowan (Wyeth) was chosen: "The Northern Ambassadors".

The first president chosen was Mel Cragg (E.B.Shuttleworth), one of the earliest of medical detail men to call on Northern Alberta pharmacies. Meetings were then held once monthly at the "Scout Hall" on 111 Ave. & 109 St.

The club arranged golf tournaments, usually at Elk Island Park, mixed curling at the Derrick Club, picnics and Christmas concerts for the children. Phil Connelly is remembered as an early "Santa". For a few years a Gala Christmas Dinner and Dance was held at the MacDonald Hotel and is well remembered by members, retail druggists and friends. Box socials were also held.



Some Northern Ambassadors

l to r: Med Sirois, Tony Nugent, guest Don Cameron, Pat Dolson, Dave Taylor



Merv. Huston and Murray Byers at  
a Northern Ambassadors night

## The Highwaymen

During the early 1950's, several pharmaceutical firms placed a representative in Lethbridge to more easily cover Southern Alberta and parts of Saskatchewan and British Columbia. By the spring of 1957 an informal poker club of these men was meeting one Friday of each month. In 1958 the decision was made to call this group "The Highwaymen".

Members of this club helped local pharmacy groups at convention times in Medicine Hat and Lethbridge. They also sponsored a golf tournament of area pharmacists and members for a few years. A "South of Calgary Pharmacists and Highwaymen" bursary was awarded to a student from that area who was entering pharmacy.

By the mid 1960's many of those firms thus represented in Lethbridge reversed their decision to locate in the south and placed their representatives in other centres, principally Calgary. This caused the demise of The Highwaymen.

Some members were: Vic Miller (Squibb), Everett Stewart (Frosst), Neil Mitchell (Lilly), Norm. Thomas (Parke-Davis & Co.), Ted Richardson (Parke-Davis & Co.), Gordon Sauder (Parke-Davis & Co.), Terry Graham (Ayerst), John Hays (Ayerst), George Jordan (Ayerst), Ted Crooks (Alberta-National), Steve Leonard (Northwest Drug), Frank Dallmas (Upjohn), Ross McLaughlan (Frosst), Jim Gardener (Upjohn) and Martin Valentine (Parke-Davis & Co.).

The three clubs described above joined together for some ventures. One of the most important was the establishment of the Drug Travellers of Alberta Bursary.

## Drug Travellers of Alberta Bursary

Its purpose was stated as "This Bursary, in the sum of Three Hundred Dollars, is granted to the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Alberta, for presentation to a student of outstanding merit who has completed at least one academic year. This student is chosen for scholastic standing and aptitude in the field of pharmacy."

Bursary winners have been:

1953 Dean Calvert	1960 Janet Emiko Sonoda
1954 Ken Hayhurst	1961 Patricia Ann Sherbanuk
1955 Norm. Barth	1962 Fred Krause
1956 Jack Lymer	1963 Morris Dancyger
1957 Alex Shysh	1964 Thomas Coward
1958 Mary Yakimowich	1965 Beverley Etherington
1959 Janet Emiko Sonoda	1966 Lee Louise Widney

1967 Bert A. Zetterstrand

1969 Stan Dabisza

1968 Marilyn Vanderlee

1970 Verna Lynne

The three clubs always assisted the hosting pharmacists when pharmacy conventions, Provincial or Canadian, were held in Alberta.

The Range Riders had a mortuary fund to assist families of deceased members.

In time, all three fraternities ceased to be active. The Highwaymen end was described. The Northern Ambassadors also diminished in the 1970's. The Range Riders became less active in the 1970's. Attendance at meetings dropped and in recent years only a few members have gathered informally for lunch.

Honorary members of the Range Riders are: Bert Bertrand, Ed Kadlec, Art Heyes, Pat Dolson, Charles Pollock, Bill Wheeler, John Haryett and George Sweany.

Honorary members of the Northern Ambassadors are: Mel Cragg, Carol Stoddart, Ted Mairs and Art Holland.

## Pharmaceutical Societies

*by Don Cameron*

During the period of 1961-62 when the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association was coping with the Royal Commission on Restrictive Trades and the Royal Commission on Health Services, a great deal of consultation was needed.

Each time a problem/situation occurred, A.Ph.A. administration offices co-ordinated members for meetings at various centres throughout the province. These meetings were being required at more frequent periods as A.Ph.A. Council coped with the "equivalency" clause change to the Pharmacy Act. Thus it became clearly evident that A.Ph.A. Council required a constant and easy means with which to communicate with its members throughout the province.

Council in 1963 permitted the formation of Pharmaceutical Societies. "On application of ten or more pharmacists in a city or other geographical area, may authorize formation of a Society and may at anytime withdraw such authority." The purpose shall be "to enhance the profession in its area; obtain a higher standard of proficiency of its members; provide means to disseminate information to the members; make pharmacy an important part in the program of health in its area; co-operate with other organizations which have similar aims and objectives; work in liaison with other established societies; to carry on activities consistent with the A.Ph.A. and be subject to that Act; encourage the formation of a Ladies Auxiliary in their area."



1957 Executive, C.D.R.D.A  
l to r: Ed Powell, Walter  
Bamforth, Claude Matthews

Every pharmacist who is a member in good standing in the A.Ph.A., resides or practises in the geographic area of the society shall be a member of the society, encompassing community, hospital, armed services, industrial and teaching practise.

The Council of A.Ph.A. shall grant a yearly per capita allowance to each society, a grant that shall be determined by Council-keeping in mind the activities and programs undertaken by that society; no membership fees are to be collected by the society.

The formation of societies greatly eased the passing of the 1965 Pharmacy Act for the Society consultations satisfied the Government that the proposed Act was that of the membership.

*All Societies in Alberta were invited to write an article for this chapter, describing their activities. Only three responded, they being Calgary, Edmonton and South Peace. Some reference is also made to Association or Society functions within the Histories of Lethbridge and of Medicine Hat.*

### **Calgary and District Retail Druggists Association and Calgary Pharmaceutical Society**

When Calgary pharmacists joined together to form an association is not precisely known. Since pharmacists had organized provincially in 1911 and prior to that had an association in the North West Territories, it seems probable that some meetings of city pharmacists must have been held prior to our first records of such which mention 1919. There were well over 30 drug stores in Calgary at that time. There is a record of a retail drug clerks association being formed in Calgary in 1912 and it is inferred that it would "function in harmony with the pharmacists" (ass'n?).

Early records and minutes of the C.D.R.D.A. have been lost or destroyed.



C.D.R.D.A. Meeting 1957  
l to r: Ron Morrison, Don Cameron, Archie McLeod and Cyril Swales

Some older members recall meetings at the Club Cafe, Harris Sky Room, Renfrew (now Petroleum) Club, Andy's Restaurant, and in recent years, as the C.P.S., at various hotels.

Activities included sending cards and/or flowers to the ill and floral tributes to the deceased. Hours of business opening and closing were often discussed and some agreement in the early 1930's provided fairly uniform hours for a decade. Until retail price maintenance was declared illegal in the 1950's(?), the C.D.R.D.A. tried to discourage price cutting among retail drug stores and made representation to those who did so and also to the manufacturers whose goods were being sold at less than list price at a particular location. Distribution of traditional drug store merchandise to other than drug stores, by wholesalers or manufacturers, received the attention of the C.D.R.D.A. in a losing battle over all but with some success at the time. Several times the Association urged the Alberta Government Telephones to alter their listing in the yellow pages from Drug Stores to Pharmacies without success but finally the change was made.

Members attending meetings tended to be only those who owned a business and although other pharmacists could attend, only a few did so. In 1950 an attempt was made to hold one meeting each year to which apprentices were invited. At one such gathering a professional window dresser gave a demonstration of his art and at another a photo finisher discussed his work. This type of meeting only lasted two years. Attendance, or lack of it, was a frequently



discussed matter although it was usually quite satisfactory. From this a suggestion was made to have a wet bar as an attraction which was soundly put down but after a few more years, the "wets" prevailed. At one meeting in 1948 a spirited discussion took place on the pro's and con's of the transferring of copies of prescriptions with several spokesmen against the asking for or giving of copies. However the majority favoured the practice which seems now to be well accepted.

The Calgary pharmacists had little need to be concerned with public relations until commissions in the U.S.A. and Canada started investigating "high" drug prices (1950's?). They suddenly found that not everyone thought of them as their "friendly neighbourhood druggist" as evidenced by letters to newspapers and calls to radio phone in shows. Another media crisis occurred when the C.D.R.A. protested that the Calgary School Board should not be selling school vitamins to students but that free distribution would be preferable. Presidents from that time had to also be careful public relation spokesmen.

The association was restructured 1965-66 and the Calgary Pharmaceutical Society under the umbrella and financing of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association was formed. The former name of the Calgary and District Retail Druggists Association was retired. The rapid increase in Calgary's population was reflected by a larger number of pharmacies and pharmacists and attendance at meetings increased. More employee pharmacists began to attend with the owners. The meeting format continued much the same but with the addition of more professional educational lectures. While sometimes difficult to obtain candidates for executive office, a surge of interest once even required an election and at least two candidates (Gordon Henker and Jim Lukes) campaigned with original written and poetic literature.

Community support was shown as the C.P.S. began to provide judges and other support for the annual School Science Fair. The donations by pharmacists to the United Fund and other health related charities was grouped under the Pharmacy banner and the C.P.S. had its own campaign within the professional division and achieved an admiral record. Before the provincially run Great Drug Round Up started, the C.P.S. had a successful campaign to collect poisons and left over medicines from the public with favourable publicity. Financial support for pharmacy students has been provided, from 1970 at least, by means of an annual C.P.S. scholarship of \$250.

Socially, a Christmas dinner and dance was held annually during the 1970's and early 1980's. On two occasions an "Old Timers Evening" was sponsored by the Society at which senior pharmacists were recognised and honoured and many tales were told. The society actively supported the establishment of the old pharmacy in Calgary's Heritage park and had much to do with stocking it.

Past Presidents of the Calgary and District Retail Druggists Assoc. and the Calgary Pharmaceutical Society:

1919 J.G. MacFarlane	1956 Donald Bergin
1920 Ivan Crooks	1957 Walter Bamforth
1921	1958 Edward Powell
1922	1959 Claude Matthews
1923 W.T. Esdale	1960 Ronald Morrison
1924 E.J. Williams	1961 H.W. McClelland
1925 W.C. Black	1962 Harper Thornton
1926 Gordon A. Sproule	1963 Ken. W. Oliver
1927 J.D. MacMillan	1964 Peter Coyle
1928	1965 Ronald MacLean
1929	1966 Ronald MacLean
1930 E.C. Higginbotham	1967 David McRitchie
1931	1968 James Davey
1932	1969 James Davey
1933 J.E. Mahood	1970 Gordon Henker
1934 Ed. Kadlec	1971 Gordon Henker
1935 Noel A. Farrow	1972 Jack Black
1936 A.J. West	1973 Ken.W. Oliver
1937 James T. Clarke	1974 Ken.W. Oliver
1938 J. Len. Esdale	1975 Jim Lukes
1939 C.E. "Bud" Graham	1976 Fred Boyle
1940 E.G. Grant	1977 Ken Whitely
1941 G. Murray Barr	1978 Doug Levy
1942 Hedley A. Hart	1979 Doug Levy
1943 J.O.H. Dunford	1980 Ronald A. Huber
1944 K.B. McDermid	1981 Stan Dabisza
1945 W.M. Mitchell	1982 Byron Bergh
1946 Robert Bailey	1983 David Brewerton
1947 W.G. Rook	1984 David Brewerton
1948 D.F. McKeague	1985 Kay Thompson
1949 A.W. McKechnie	1986 Kay Thompson
1950 J.K. Penley	1987 Ken Boutilier
1951 Howard Young	1988 Don Ankerman
1952 Cliff Irwin	1989 Bob Sprague
1953 Charles Laycraft	1990 Bob Sprague
1954 Jack E. Corbett	1991 Laurie Langenhoff
1955 James Wylie	1992 Laurie Langenhoff

## **Edmonton District Druggists Association and the Edmonton Society of Pharmacists**

*by Eli Ambrosie*

The Alberta Retail Druggists Association (A.R.D.A.) was formed in 1932 when the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association (A.Ph.A.) gave its approval to such an organization. The main purpose of this new body was to look after the member's financial interests since the A.Ph.A. is responsible for the administration of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act and therefore must be accountable to the public. A.R.D.A. became a branch of the Western Druggists Association.

The A.R.D.A. immediately set up its own administrative structure including the hiring of one field officer who visited the various drug stores as needed throughout the province. This field officer endeavoured to identify areas of concern to the druggists. One such problem was the lack of uniform pricing by the manufacturers or distributors of the many patent medicines and other pharmaceuticals. It appeared that, in those days, the acquired cost of the merchandise depended upon whether the detail man liked you, what day of the week it was and the time of day! If sales were slow you had a good chance at a better deal. Furthermore, the drug store owner could not expect better than a 25% discount off the retail price.

In 1936 the Edmonton Retail Druggists Association (E.R.D.A.) was formed with William (Bill) D. Goldberg as the first president. Later this association became known as the Edmonton District Druggists Association thus embracing the nearby communities of Calder, Beverly, Leduc, Stony Plain, St. Albert, Jasper Place, Fort Saskatchewan and others within a reasonable driving distance of Edmonton. This new group was interested in standardizing and, hopefully, reducing the number of hours that each drug store was open to the public. Business hours, such as 8 A.M. to 11 P.M., seven days a week, were very common. They were also concerned with the same issues that A.R.D.A. was trying to resolve. In other words there was a duplication of effort but, unfortunately, neither group was able to achieve any appreciable results - neither in merchandise discounts nor in hours of operation. Resolution of these issues had to wait until World War II when shortages of merchandise and in pharmacists occurred. Hours of business, in most instances, were cut back to 9 A.M. to 9 P.M., Monday through Saturday with shorter hours on Sundays and holidays.

It was in 1936 when administration of both the A.Ph.A. and A.R.D.A. realized that this duplication of services was not cost justified and A.R.D.A. became a committee of A.Ph.A. The activities on behalf of the druggists

continued and, to every extent possible, are still part of the licensing body today.

During WW II this committee was very much involved with the war effort. Cigarettes were shipped to our Canadian soldiers, serving overseas, on a regular basis.

E.D.D.A. meetings were held monthly at the King Edward Hotel in Edmonton but were moved later to the Corona Hotel. In the early 1950's the E.D.D.A. sponsored a weekly radio program on Radio station CFRN on Sunday evenings called "The Treasure House of Melodies". This was a collection of easy-to-listen-to music with a very limited oral content. Also during the 1950's some members of E.D.D.A. forsook their responsibilities as pharmacists on Wednesday afternoons and engaged in curling during winter months and golf in the summer where they joined forces with the drug travellers, most of whom were pharmacists as well.

1960 was the year when the E.D.D.A. came up with a new formula for pricing of prescriptions. Up until this time, prescriptions were priced on a mark-up basis – the same as other merchandise in the store. Now the committee suggested that a DISPENSING FEE of 75 cents be added to the cost price of each prescription for a manufacturer's package quantity or \$1.00 for a broken quantity. Compounded preparations would be priced on the cost of ingredients plus a dispensing fee of 10 cents for each minute of compounding time. This seemed like a radical departure from that which had pertained from time immemorial and it was to take a year or more before the majority of pharmacies adopted the new schedule.

The E.D.D.A. was one of the first in Canada to distribute Poison Antidote Charts for use in the home. In order to provide better after hours service to the community the E.D.D.A. organized, and paid for, an emergency telephone service which operated for a few years until a 24 hour pharmacy was opened in the city.

When the Council of A.Ph.A. encouraged the formation of Societies in 1964, E.D.D.A. was ended and the Edmonton Society of Pharmacists was born. However the unspent money from E.D.D.A. was left in an interest bearing account and when A.Ph.A. moved into its newly purchased building, that money (just over \$5,000.) was used to purchase a custom-made table and 12 chairs for the Board Room.

Over the 28 year life of E.D.D.A., there were, of course, many presidents. Amongst them were, in addition to Mr. Goldberg, names like Cliff Lee, Frank Lee, Dick Holeton, George Chornell, Len Sanders, Russ Steele, J.W. Morris, George Johnston, Walter Boddy, Walter Sprague, Sterling Gilbert, Went Neeley, Art Griswold, Fred Beddome, Herb Hollingsworth, Norm Smith, and Bill Christopherson. Jim Wylie was the last president of E.D.D.A. and

also the first president of E.S.P.. Jim also served as president of the Calgary and District Retail Druggists Association before moving to Edmonton.

Working with the A.Ph.A., E.S.P. was successful in having included in the telephone books distributed to every telephone subscriber in the province, two pages of First Aid information. One page is entitled "The Proper Use of Drugs and Medicines" and the other is "Treatment of Accidental Poisoning". The information is in a format with common terms that the average consumer would understand.

Presidents of E.S.P. included Harry Nolan, Stan Miller, Bill Lesick, Scotty Logan, Borys Ferbey, Astrid Ustina, Barry Peachment, Louise Sharren, Pearl Jin, Ron Marcinkoski, Selma Mah and others.

## **South Peace Society of Pharmacists**

*by Cam Johnston*

The South Peace Society of Pharmacists has been inactive for approximately six years until 1991. The last action by the society was the hosting of the A.Ph.A. Convention in 1984, while under the direction of former president Tim Englehart. In 1991 a new council was elected consisting of three directors: Carol McDermit, Karen Ingram, and Joan Cabral, a secretary/treasurer; Tim McDermit, a vice-president; Joanne Hering, and myself as president. While Joan Cabral was on the 1984 council the other members are all new and looking forward to the challenges that will come with their new positions.

The first event hosted by the new society, a golf tournament, was a great success. There was fun to be had by all who participated, and a new interest was generated in the society's future. This led to society participation in a local Enviromania presentation and the donation of a composter for the raffle. Other issues addressed include the legalities of taking oral prescriptions from physician's receptionist's, requests for community pharmacies to be open on Christmas and New Years Day, and the possibility of implementing the "Vial for Life" campaign for seniors.

Future goals include the organization of continuing education seminars and guest speakers for the area, promotion of the profession of pharmacy (through student education career days, and local press articles), and other social events, the next of which is the curling funspiel in February of 1992. As president I look forward to revitalizing the area's society involvement and I expect great results from our new energetic council and the promising community support.

## **Association of Senior Apothecaries**

In the late 1980's, a group of retired pharmacists, most of them senior citizens, got together in Edmonton and arranged to meet once each month for a social visit over lunch. This seemed to fill a need for after having been able to interact with other pharmacists on an almost daily basis while in practice and as well at local society or association meetings, there was less chance to do so in retirement. These luncheons proved so popular that they have become a regular event and are well attended.

From several suggestions submitted, a name was chosen; the Association of Senior Apothecaries, which very conveniently for pharmacists is often shortened to the acronym A.S.A.

Shortly after the Edmonton initiative, Calgary pharmacists also formed an A.S.A. group which has proved very popular. The Calgary meetings are also held once monthly but on a different day than the meeting of the Edmonton A.S.A., which has enabled the two branches to each visit the other and thus to enjoy social interaction.

It would appear from the enthusiastic response shown by regular attendance, that the A.S.A. has a long future to anticipate.

*In addition to those mentioned above, thanks is extended to the following who provided essential information; Cam Logan, Dunc McPherson, Arnold Cowan, Ted Richardson, Ted Crooks, George Jordan, Laurie Langenhoff and Bob Sprague.*

# Wholesales and Suppliers, Buying Groups and Manufacturing

by J.K. Penley

PIONEER PHARMACISTS IN Alberta could not obtain their merchandise and supplies by picking up the telephone and dialing their local wholesaler and then perhaps impatiently await same day delivery. They had neither telephones nor local suppliers.

Pharmacist/physician H. C. Wilson at Fort Edmonton in 1882 probably made use of river boats on the North Saskatchewan river or overland carts to obtain his goods from Central Canada. We know that pharmacist/physician Andrew Henderson in 1883 had to patiently await the arrival of C.P.R. tracks into Calgary before he could completely stock his Apothecaries Hall with goods shipped from Messrs. Kenneth Campbell and Co. of Montreal. John D. Higinbotham received his first stock in 1884 after a 2000 mile train trip to Calgary then overland to Fort Macleod by Red River cart. This trip was not without hazard. Higinbotham found the tins, in which ethanol was shipped, to have been somehow emptied. Egerton Walton in Medicine Hat had rail service well prior to his opening in 1884 and thus had access to wholesale houses in the east. The above proprietors no doubt also obtained some goods via a much nearer source, Fort Benton Montana, from which depot it was hauled over the prairie by ox team. Samuel Trott of Calgary had a relatively convenient source of supply in 1884 with a regular freight service on the C.P.R. from Winnipeg where he dealt with his former wholesale firm Mitchell and Trott. One expects that pharmacists of those days, by necessity, had to carry a very large inventory and would experience difficulty keeping perishable goods in fresh condition.

## National Drug and Chemical Company of Canada

Perhaps seeing the potential of the drug business in the North West Territories, wholesalers soon arrived. One very successful drug wholesaler was

pharmacist D. W. Bole who by 1885 had warehouses in Winnipeg and Regina. A few years later in 1894, as the Bole Drug Wholesale, the firm located in Calgary. In 1905 Mr. Bole was one of 18 men or firms who joined to form the National Drug and Chemical Co. of Canada and the Bole business in Calgary at 333-8th Ave S.W. then at 400-7 th Ave. S.W. became the Alberta branch of the "National". By 1913 a branch was opened in Edmonton. Although Bole had left the firm by then, his name reappeared when the firm which had added E. D. Martin and Major Wynne, now Martin, Bole and Wynne, appeared in the 1920 Calgary directory. Drugs Limited was listed in the 1922 directory. "National" circulated a booklet to all drug retailers containing news of interest to pharmacists in all regions of Canada. The firm made and marketed their own line of goods under the names "NADRUCO" and "LAURENTIAN". The head office was in Montreal.

### **Alberta-National Drug Company of Canada, Limited**

In 1931 the two Alberta branches of National Drug merged with the Peacock Drug and Stationery Co. to form the Alberta-National Drug Company of Canada, Limited with its head office in Calgary. The men who met on Sept. 8 to make this decision were; W. S. Kerry of Montreal, R. J. Harper, Joseph Peacock, H. L. Christie and A. Paterson all of Edmonton and B. Bertrand and R. R. Alton of Calgary. The first Retail Directors were: Fred W. Heath, Edmonton, Neil I. McDermid, Calgary, Frank Hedley, Lethbridge and M. R. Maybank, Olds.

Both the Calgary and Edmonton branches prospered and grew by serving the entire province of Alberta. Their locations in the two major cities were in the central business area and thus very convenient for retail druggists to call for small or emergency orders although daily delivery service was available. Shipments were made each day to points outside the cities. The wholesale was open Monday through Friday plus a half day on Saturday morning. As the cities grew, the downtown buildings and facilities became inadequate and a move to more functional and modern plants in the suburbs was made. Saturday service was curtailed.

The wholesale house was more than a supplier of goods, especially so during the early days of Alberta pharmacy. It also provided a social atmosphere where retail pharmacists, travelling salesmen and wholesale staff could meet and catch up on news of what was happening in the drug business. During the Great Depression of the Thirsty Thirties, the managers of the wholesale found themselves also acting as bankers, brokers and sometimes as reluctant owners of retail establishments as hard times forced some into failure. More than a few grateful and later successful retail pharmacists were





Retailers and Sales Representatives gather to honor Bert Bertrand, at left, on his retirement from Alberta-National Drug. top (l to r): Gerry Busby, Bob Westrop, Phil Connolly. others (l to r): Dave Woodrow, (?), Don McKeague, Stu Monro, Jack Cummings, Cam Logan, Don Bergin, Howard Young, George Noel. At the piano: Derek West.

helped through those difficult times or were guided into taking over a business with generous financial help and terms extended by the managers of Alberta-National.

Some managers of Alberta-National would include Bert Bertrand, Bill Butchart, Bill Taylor, Alex Rowley, Alf Carter, Ken Argue, Glen Gaucher, Walter Robertson, Jim Lockhart, Peter de Bruijn and Ken Waite. Bertrand, Gaucher and Waite were each named an Honorary Member of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association upon his retirement.

No account of the Alberta-National would be complete without special reference to Mr. Bertrand Bertrand. During his entire life he worked for only one employer, "The National". He started with the company in Montreal doing customs work then as a young man was sent to Lethbridge as a salesman, circa 1910. His next move was to Calgary as assistant manager of that branch and later became manager of the Calgary office and General Manager of the company. "Bert" was always an active participant of conven-



Alex Rowley, left takes over  
from Bert Bertrand

tion committees when the event was in or near Calgary. He was an honorary member of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, The Calgary and District Retail Druggists Ass'n., the Alberta Range Riders and a friend to all pharmacists. Mr. Bertrand died in Calgary in 1976 at age 84 years.

After nearly 100 years of wholesale service to Alberta pharmacies, first as Boles then as National and Alberta National, the name under new ownership has been changed to Medis Western Inc..

## Revillon Freres

Revillon Freres had been busy in the fur trade, operating out of Edmonton for some time, before they began to serve the drug trade perhaps in the early 1920's. They did so by adding a few medicines and sundries to their line. They also began to manufacture a few pharmaceuticals.

Some of their employees became well known in pharmaceutical circles in Alberta: A. Whitney Matthews, Walter Husband, Gerry Shapter and Harry Martin.

According to salesman Shapter, part of their appeal to customers outside of Edmonton, was a freight rate which was one cent per pound less than their competitors. Later the drug and stationery departments of Revillon were taken over by Joe Peacock and became the Peacock Drug and Stationery Co.

### **Thomas Little**

Pharmacist Tommy Little of Carmangay and Nanton had a wholesale business for a while in the 1920's. This business later became a part of the Williams Brothers firm in Calgary.

### **Stevens Alberta Co. Ltd.**

The parent company was a London England company but the Canadian outlets, although affiliated, were all independently owned. In Alberta, the firm opened offices in Calgary in 1920 and then in Edmonton. The Edmonton branch closed from 1938 to 1980 during which time the province was serviced from Calgary.

The Stevens Companies carried stock for hospitals, physicians and surgery needs and a line of sundries for drug stores. Items in stock for pharmacies would include rubber goods from hot water bottles to baby nipples, rubbing alcohol, bottles and corks, syringes and clinical thermometers, tablet boxes and vials, heating pads, vaporizers, etc.. In recent years the company directed its sales efforts more towards physicians and hospitals. Some salesmen who called on the drug trade were: Fred Franklin, Jack Jones, Andy Mitchell, George Noel, Ray Rowson, Don King, Art Ansell, Bill Gregory, Tony Pike, Jim Wallis, Ed Broomfield and Archie Logan. Managers included: Alex T. Morrison, D. F. MacDonald, H. E. Hardisty, A. W. Haycock, Benny Dartnell, Andy Mitchell, George Noel, Ray Rowson and Don Wilson.

### **Ingram and Bell Ltd.**

This was a Toronto based firm established by two men, Messrs Ingram and Bell. They opened a branch in Calgary in 1921.

The first manager, who remained as such for many years, was pharmacist Leslie J. Harvey. Assistant manager for many years was Joseph Stirling. The office and warehouse was located in central Calgary at 519-Centre St. S. but later moved to the suburbs.

Ingram and Bell carried a stock of hospital, surgical and physician needs and also a considerable selection of pharmaceuticals, packaged and marketed under their own label and in most cases using their own brand names. These products served a need for those physicians who, by choice or necessity, did their own dispensing. Doctors also wrote prescriptions for these I. & B. brands and thus pharmacists were frequent customers of this firm.

Some salesmen would include Jack Manes Sr., Harold Landry and Bob Banks.

## **Standard Surgical Supplies Ltd. & Standard Pharmaceuticals**

Standard Surgical Supplies was started by Martin Shyba in Calgary in the 1940's. Shyba had first sold surgical supplies out of the trunk of his car but eventually built his company into a firm with offices and distributing outlets across the country from Vancouver to Halifax.

This firm opened a division to sell medicinal goods and called this the Standard Pharmaceuticals. Pharmacist Herschell Fawcett was the manager of this new division which was started in 1964. It acted as sales distributor for several manufacturing firms and much of its business was obtained by tender to provincial governments of Western Canada. By 1974 "Standard" had been sold to Hartz Canada Ltd. then in turn to Extendicare Canada Ltd..

## **Animal Health Products in Pharmacy**

Many Alberta pharmacists, particularly in rural areas, were forced to become knowledgeable about diseases of livestock and poultry because for many years there were too few veterinarians to serve all communities. To treat ill animals it was necessary for a pharmacy to carry a large supply of instruments and various remedies from drenches to boluses, from tooth nippers to dehorner, from salves to blisters. When antibiotics were introduced in the late 1930's and early 1940's, a large stock of sulfa drugs, penicillins and other antibiotic aids to animal health had to be carried along with many sizes of syringes and needles. The pharmacist was often asked to assist with the administration of vaccines against blackleg, haemorrhagic septicemia and other disorders. As well as rural drug stores, a few city drug stores also carried such stock.

This part of the pharmacist's practice became so important that a course in Veterinary Science was added to the curriculum at the School of Pharmacy and for many years Dr. P. R. Talbot, a provincial veterinarian, gave a weekly lecture to pharmacy students.

During the 1960's and later, the situation changed. More veterinarians were graduating thus providing farmers and ranchers with a professional service in their area. As well, outlets such as grain elevators, cooperatives and the veterinarians themselves were making remedies conveniently available to the users. Thus pharmacists in some locations noticed a diminished demand for such merchandise and service. Some pharmacies still carry a good stock of animal health products and a few find this department a significant part of their business.

For many years there had been very few wholesale sources specifically for animal health products. In Calgary for example, there was only one such supplier during the 1920's and 1930's, that being the Winnipeg Veterinary and Breeders Supply Co.. It was not until after the 1939-1945 war that Globe Laboratories, the Franklin Serum Co. of Canada opened offices in Calgary. Then in 1949 or 1950, McClelland Veterinary Supplies opened as well. Cutter Veterinary Vaccines had been available for some time through pharmacy agents.

The founder of the McClelland Veterinary Supplies was a veterinarian, Dr. S. H. McClelland. McClelland was also a pharmacist, a graduate of the class of 1921, University of Alberta. He practised in both professions and opened his own pharmacy in Hythe in 1929. He later became a veterinary inspector for the Dominion Government. McClelland opened his veterinary manufacturing and supply firm at 330-8 Ave. S.E. in Calgary and this firm grew to become a major distributor of animal health needs to pharmacies and others. No doubt this pharmacist used his training to formulate and prepare many of the firm's remedies. In fact one could often see "Doc" busily working with a protective apron in the rear of his wholesale building. The firm expanded to larger premises in the suburbs.

In recent years the names Globe, Franklin and McClelland have disappeared from the Alberta directories but the veterinarians and pharmacists can obtain many of their needs from the veterinary departments of some major pharmaceutical firms well known to pharmacists.

### **Northwest Drug Company Ltd.**

Northwest Drug Cooperative Ltd. opened a drug wholesale business in Edmonton in 1954. This was the result of ground work started in 1952 by Stuart Lamb and Arden Cooper and other Alberta pharmacists. The cooperative was to be associated with Bate and Bate Wholesale Drugs Ltd. of Winnipeg and Northwest was to purchase Bate and Bate no sooner than 5 years and no later than 10 years.

In addition to the trading cooperative, a Building Company was also formed. Support was quickly obtained from several Alberta pharmacists who felt a need for wholesale competition in Alberta and who also had a feeling that this wholesale was to be their own. There were approximately fifty pharmacist shareholders when the firm opened for business Dec. 15, 1954. The first Board of Directors consisted of William D. Goldberg, president, F. O. Vickerson, vice-president, Allen J. McCullough, Sect-Treasurer and Ab Dawson, Nick Ewasiuk, Stuart Harrison, George Johnson, Went Neely, Hank Rogers and Jack Shillabeer. Stuart Lamb became manager of the wholesale.



First Board of Directors for North-West Drug Co-operatives Ltd. 1954.

rear (l to r): N. Ewasiuk, S. Harrison, G. Johnson, H. W. Rogers, W. Neely, J. Dawson.

front (l to r): J. A. Shillabeer, F. O. Vickerson, W. D. Goldberg, A. J. McCullough, S. Lamb.

The new cooperative was to experience some difficult years, mainly due to the need for more capital. But business was good and the shareholders proceeded with confidence. In 1957 the firm was reorganized into Northwest Drug Company Ltd.. The trading and building companies amalgamated. However the need for capital continued for several years. Help came from the shareholder-customers who often accepted shares in lieu of discounts. Money was also loaned by some pharmacists and their staff. Several suppliers of merchandise were also very lenient and gave credit extensions. Gradually these problems were overcome and the company went on to set an enviable sales record in Alberta.

From 1955, customers in Southern Alberta were serviced from a small office in Calgary which included Allan Gale as salesman and often as delivery man. Orders were filled and shipped from Edmonton until a full service warehouse was later obtained in Calgary. With sales representatives later also based in Lethbridge and Grande Prairie, the province was well served and as well many accounts were opened in British Columbia and the North West Territories.

The Calgary warehouse was closed in 1991 and all service was then provided from the Edmonton warehouse.

In 1984, shares of Northwest Drug Co. Ltd. went public and were listed on



North-West Drug Company Ltd. 1968-69 Board and managers.

back (l to r): Jack Walker, Cliff Aicher, Jack Black, Ed Powell, George Johnson, Cliff King, Scotty Logan, Stan Niddrie.  
front (l to r): Allan Gale, Hugh Turner, Colin Layton, Bill Skelton, Fraser Currie, Bob Rogers.

the Alberta and Toronto Stock Exchanges. They were readily accepted and increased in value. Braithwaites of Winnipeg was acquired in 1988 and company operations were expanded into Manitoba. The success of the company has been attributed to excellent support from the pharmacist/shareholders and to a dedicated staff, some of whom to date have been with "Northwest" for 35 years.

The members of the first Board of Directors of the Limited Company were: T. Cornett, Red Deer, E. Bergh, Bow Island, R. S. Harrison, Lamont, C. W. King, Vegreville, J. K. Penley, Calgary, H. W. Rogers, Edmonton, S. R. Rogers, Edmonton, N. Scott, Barrhead, C. Taylor, Leduc, and G. Johnson, Edmonton as chairman.

Others who have acted as directors include: W. Bamforth, J. F. Black, N. Chepil, Wm. Currie, A. Dawson, B. Duncan, N. Ewasiuk, R. Edgar, R. Holeton, C. Irwin, D. Kushner, S. Lamb, C. Layton, S. Logan, P. J. McKenna, R. Maybank, W. Neely, S. Niddrie, N. Parry, E. Powell, C. Scott, J. Shillabeer, W. Skelton, R. Skitch, J. W. Somers, K. Sproule, J. Stewart, D. Vickeron, J. Walker.

Managers have included: Stuart Lamb, Arden Cooper, Morgan Henderson, Ed Kadlec, Allen Gale, Bill Campbell, Hugh Turner, Barry Mackenzie.

### **Gaetz Cornett Wholesale Ltd.**

The Gaetz Cornett Drug and Book Co. Ltd., opened a drug wholesale in Red Deer in 1961. This wholesale, with a staff of seven, serviced an area from Hobbema in the North to Didsbury in the South, and to the two borders, East and West.

Originally occupying space in the Bettinson Cartage Building, they later moved to the rear of Gaetz Cornett Paramount Drug Store on Ross St., east of the United Church.

Though they did not carry pharmaceuticals, they did offer a full line of patent medicines, toiletries, stationery, confectionery and drug sundries. They employed two salesmen who covered the territory in two panel trucks, enabling them to make deliveries, carry special offers or deals and take orders as they made their calls. Whereas they did call on the small town pharmacies in their area, most of their business was in country and small town general stores where no pharmacy existed.

The Gaetz Cornett Wholesale Ltd. was in operation for approximately 17 years then was sold to Bob Kondrat in 1978, but closed out two or three years later as it was not considered viable.

### **Direct Buying**

Several pharmaceutical firms had a policy of selling directly to retail or hospital pharmacists while other firms chose to supply their goods only through regional wholesalers. As business in Alberta increased, some of the "direct" companies set up distributional warehouses of their own in Alberta, particularly in Edmonton and Calgary. If narcotics or controlled drugs were stocked, a pharmacist was employed.

Later, it was recognised that economies could be effected by having several of those firms grouped under one roof, sharing space with one another. Rent or capital expense could be reduced, warehouse and office staff duties could be performed for several firms thus reducing duplication of similar services. One other advantage was that one pharmacist could act as a narcotic control office for the several firms who had previously each been required to employ one. We will discuss one such company.

**Midwest, Seaway-Midwest, Livingston.** During the 1960's, Midwest Pharmaceutical Distributors chose Calgary for their depot to supply retail pharmacies, hospitals and wholesales for most of the Western Canadian region and certainly all of Alberta. The complete stock of many pharmaceutical manufacturers was stocked in a large warehouse. Office workers received orders,



prepared invoices for the particular firm whose goods were to be shipped on the forms of that firm. Warehouse employees assembled, packed and shipped the orders daily.

The duties of the pharmacist included the safe-keeping of all products containing narcotics or controlled drugs which were kept in a vault secured by strong walls, locks and an alarm system. Orders were received, requisition signatures verified, running inventory records entered, stock assembled then shipped by registered mail or courier.

The name of the firm was changed to become Seaway-Midwest and later to its present name Livingston Pharmaceutical Distribution Ltd.. Oswald F. Geehan was the pharmacist with these firms from 1968 until 1986, then the position was filled by Kenneth W. Oliver.

## Drug Store Franchises

It was common for retail drug stores in Alberta and elsewhere to take on a franchise by agreement which gave the retailer the exclusive right to carry and sell the products of a certain manufacturer. The manufacturer would provide supporting advertising and promotion. In return the retailer would agree to stock and feature the goods of that particular supplier, participate in advertised sales events and in some cases to erect an exterior sign of the manufacturer's design and colors. Three such franchising firms were Nyal, Penslar and Rexall.

**Nyal.** The Nyal name was an acronym of the New York and London Drug Co.. This firm was a division of the Frederick Stearns & Company. Many of its products used orange cartons and labels for uniform identification. At intervals during the year, the company held "Two For One" sales in which agency outlets were expected to participate.

Two Alberta representatives for Nyal were Tom Hayward and Marcy Weiss.

**Penslar.** The Penslar company was established in 1878 in Detroit U.S.A. by a Canadian pharmacist, Mr. E. Nelson. It was then called the Peninsular Chemical Co. but the name was later shortened to Penslar. The Canadian branch opened in 1900 at Walkerville, Ont.. In 1950 the Canadian operation was bought by J. L. Walker and became separate from the American Company.

Penslar also had a "Two For One" sale but this did not, in most locations in Alberta, achieve the popularity of either Nyal or Rexall similar sales. The Canadian company gradually lessened the number of medicinal products that had largely been made in the United States then focused on cosmetic and

toiletry items with considerable success. The Canadian company may have ceased business in the late 1970's.

A Penslar representative in Alberta from 1927 until 1952 was Bert Hinds of Lethbridge

Rexall. In 1903, Louis K. Liggett founded the United Drug Co. in the U.S.A. as a cooperative of some 40 druggists. They featured their own Rexall brands of patent medicines and other products. Such retailers identified their pharmacies with a uniform Rexall sign in addition to their regular store name. Rexall store colors were blue, orange and white. Product carton color for many years was a two toned blue. The concept was new and was a success from the beginning.

The United Drug Company of Canada was formed in 1909 with John R. Kennedy as president. Mr. Kennedy said the R stood for Rexall. In 1913 a new aggressive merchandising plan was launched called the One Cent Sale. A customer could buy one advertised Rexall product at the usual price then buy one more for one cent. These sales were held twice a year and were an astounding success. Soon there were some 10,000 Rexall Drug stores in the U.S.A. and about 1,500 in Canada.

In Alberta there was a Rexall franchise in close to 100% of the towns or villages which had a registered pharmacist and the cities had several as well, judiciously spaced to cover most neighborhoods. In addition to independent Rexallites there were Rexall owned subsidiary chain stores such as Liggett Rexall Drug Stores and Owl Rexall Drug Stores.

The Rexall Drug Co. was one of the most successful and well known wholesale distributing and retail operation of any kind in the U.S.A. and Canada. Its demise in the 1970's came as a shock and surprise to many. The Liggett chain had been sold eliminating one major Rexall outlet. The One Cent sale perhaps had less appeal due to the advent of almost constantly available sales of drug store products in new and large competing outlets. In 1976, both the American and Canadian companies were sold and the buyers did not carry on. By 1977, the Canadian Rexall Corporation, based in Toronto, was placed in receivership.

Rexall products, as well as Nyal and Penslar products, are no longer seen in Alberta.

Several Albertans were active with Rexall. Gerry Bullock became president of the Canadian company. Ed Kadlec became manager of the Winnipeg warehouse then Vice-President of the company. Rod Miller was Western Sales Manager for Liggetts. Sales representatives included: Duke Gregory, Ed Kadlec, George Law, Loren Morris, Charles Pollock, Wes Bailey, Pat Igylesden, Dave Taylor, Herb West and Walter Lesick.



Some Parke-Davis & Co. Stalwarts.

l to r: Bill Speed, Cliff Rogers, George Woodrow (retiring), Gerry Lang, Gordon Sauder.

## Buying Groups

There have probably always been informal buying groups of two, three or more pharmacies which was intended to share shipping costs and to obtain specially offered "deals" which manufacturers and wholesalers offered at reduced prices but only if large quantities were purchased. Such goods would be shipped to one of the group who would then divide the order, bill it out and inform the others to have it picked up. The inconvenience of this method was offset by the savings and the ability to match the prices of larger firms.

We will discuss only those that organised to a slightly higher degree and which may have advertised as well. One such group was formed in Calgary during the "hungry thirties" and was called the "North-Side Druggists". They included at least the following: Black's Drug, Grant's Drug, Johnson, later Clarke's Drug, McIvor Drug and Jeffrey's Drug. This buying group issued a bi-monthly flyer which was delivered to all the area of Calgary north of the Bow River.

About 20 years later a similar group followed a similar pattern. They included drug stores such as Moore's, McLeod's, Corbett's, Young's and

Penley's. The latter three also issued handbills which covered most of the North Hill area. Such groups may have bought more cheaply but the advertising was largely institutional as the price maintenance policy then in effect made cut-rate specials difficult on brand name products.

**A.I.D..** The first city wide cooperative effort saw a large number of Calgary drug stores join together in the early 1960's as a group independent of any wholesaler. This was the Association of Independent Druggists which used the identification of A.I.D. stores. A.I.D. members bore about one-third of advertising costs the rest being assumed by participating suppliers.

E. L. "Ted" Marles was the organiser and manager of the group, assisted by an advertising agency. At first all advertising was done by newspaper, a page or more each week. After five such years the group advertised on television and also sponsored a weekly adventure program. Pharmacist members of A.I.D. appeared in turn on television to tell the public about specials at their, and all A.I.D. stores. There were some suggestions made that these pharmacists not leave their profession to pursue a career in television. The then Calgary based Registrar, Don Cameron, also gave a non commercial message on these programs.

The A.I.D. group was quite successful but for various reasons it ceased operation after 8-1/2 years.

**Pharma C Mart.** The next well organised buying group in Calgary was and is the Pharma C Mart stores. This was organised when a group of independent pharmacists met at the home of Elmer Bergh circa 1967. From the first eight to twelve present, a limited company was formed. Pharma C Mart Ltd. shares were issued. The aim of the company was to buy cooperatively for better prices, request tenders for service contracts and to advertise as a group. A common sign for store fronts was designed and used featuring a large initial C. Participating pharmacies could retain their other affiliations if they wished, Rexall, I.D.A., A.R.P. etc.. Each participant was responsible to arrange purchases from particular suppliers.

The plans were well laid and this group, now of about 25 retail drug stores, continues to act for mutual benefit. Most advertising has been dropped as not being cost effective for stores so diversified. A delivery van is owned and distributes stock once weekly. The group meets regularly and now permit a few non-shareholders retailers to participate as associates.

**Delta Pharmacies Limited.** A group of Edmonton pharmacists met in 1965 with the anticipation of forming a group to help one another with some aspects

of business. Included in this first meeting were: Gerry Howatt, Ron Jewett, Ray Kucharski, Len Wheeler and Jim Wylie, representing respectively: Mayfair Drugs, Leonard Drugs, Imperial Drug, Wheeler Drug and Suburban Drug. These men were instrumental in forming "The Buying Group".

Within a short time they were joined by: Stan Miller, Vic Harrison, Ron Turner, Orest Verchomin and Borys Ferby representing respectively: Miller Drug, Vic's Super Drugs, Shopper's Drug World, Southgate Pharmacy and Market Drug, to form a very cohesive group.

The evolution continued with the addition of: Doug Wallis of Shopper's Drug Centennial, Jim Hurst of Shopper's Drug World Lansdowne, Norm Kobylka and Stan Sovka of Delton Super Drugs, Bill Lesick of Beverly Pharmacy, Harry Nolan of Lynnwood Drug, Maurice Nolan of Nolan Drug, Maurice Galarneau of Maurice Pharmacy, Bill Hoshowski of Plaza Drug and Walter Hladun of Nu Killarney Drug. During this phase, Speedway Drug was purchased by Ray Kucharski who also sold his Imperial Drug Store to Urban Bogucz.

A new name and logo were added in the early 1970's, being "Delta Pharmacies" with a logo of a blue cross inside of a delta, with a motto below "Doorway to Good Health". Alberta Blue Cross objected to the use of a blue cross, so this was deleted.

From its early beginning the group had goals, particularly the objective of being able to obtain merchandise at prices low enough to be competitive at the retail level. An advertising program was tried for a few years but was eventually discontinued. Members found that they benefited from the sharing of information and experience in matters such as: rental, wages, cleaning services etc.. Last, but not least, the social or fraternal aspect of the group was always of importance in forming a closer bond.

Members first had breakfast meetings at the Mayfair Hotel then changed to dinner meetings at the Royal Glenora Club, The Edmonton Inn, Derrick Golf and Winter Club, then the Faculty Club. Matters of common interest received a round table discussion. Day long meetings were held at the Edmonton Inn and week-end seminars at Jasper Park Lodge in the fall.

Membership changes that occurred were the purchase of Strathcona Prescription Centre by Gerry Howatt and closing of Mayfair Drugs. Gerry was very fortunate to have as a capable assistant, Lorraine Assheton-Smith who became an asset to the group. The sale of Shopper's Drug World Lansdowne to Diane Anderson and Barry Davis occurred which in turn was sold to Don Makowichuk. Jerry McDonald first joined the group with Belvedere Drugs followed by Belmead Pharmacy to Westridge Pharmacy to Wolf Willow Pharmacy. Doug Wallis closed his Shopper's Drug World, Continental store

after purchasing and now operating Corner Drug Mart.

Other members that contributed and still belong to Delta Buying Group are: Grandin Prescription Centre who joined with Ed Dunick, Brenda Miller at Maurice Pharmacy and Eugene Barabash who purchased Maurice Pharmacy. Lendrum Guardian Drug joined with Eric Yeung as owner before selling his business to Morris Sumyk. Upon selling his Lendrum store, Eric purchased first, Speedway Value Drug Mart then later Tawa Drug Mart. Joe Pavich and Rick Redl, owners of Londondale I.D.A. Drug Mart, Don Szyndrowski at Devon Drug Mart and Larry McGlone who purchased Nolan Drug, are now active members. Donna Radomski, owner of Mediclinic Drug, was the last member to join.

Some member stores and owners who at one time belonged to Delta Pharmacies Buying Group and have since dropped out are: Hilary Duholke at Appleyard Pharmacy, Wilf Carrington at Carrington Drugs, Ted Hart at Hart's Drug, Brian Scherba and Lorraine Herlein at Primrose I.D.A. Pharmacy, Peter Hui at Vic's Super Drug, Bob Ellison and Linda Lucyk at Guardian Drugs Medicine Chest in Morrinvile and Wes Pon at Lynnwood Value Drug Mart.

The Delta Group was affiliated with Alberta National Drug wholesale on a contract basis and if a member attained a certain volume, a rebate applied, however members had a choice to deal where they wished. Direct buying was also done where there was an advantage. For direct buying, each Delta member was assigned the responsibility to deal with a representative of one or more supplier. Contracts were let for some pharmaceutical and other services, eg. photo-finishing. Each Delta member could deal with whom they wished, regardless of such contracts. Members could retain their affiliation with other buying groups such as ARP, IDA, Guardian, Value, Rexall etc..

The merchandise was allocated to member stores on volume and dollar amounts. Orders were telephoned or faxed to each other, once a week. Orders were delivered the next day by a commercial carrier. Vic Harrison then took over the delivery system, followed by his son Sandy. The Harrison Delivery Company was sold to Barb and Neil Minogue who now operate the delivery of merchandise.

**Other buying groups.** In Alberta, the two major wholesale houses provided a group merchandising service to those of its customers who chose to participate. Those taking part agreed to pay a membership fee, to display a distinctive identifying outdoor sign and to hold advertised sales. In turn, the wholesaler agreed to arrange and have printed, advertising for sales, window posters and in-store point of sale signs and to provide the advertised

items at reduced prices. These plans allowed independent pharmacies in cities or towns to participate in advertised sales and to purchase some merchandise at reduced prices.

The Alberta-National Drug sponsored the Western Drug Marts for a period in the late 1960's and early 1970's, and have for some time been operating the ARP stores (Associated Retail Pharmacies). A recent group operating from Medis Western Inc. are the F.C.P. (Family Care Pharmacies). Northwest Drug Wholesale is the sponsor of the I.D.A. (Independent Druggists Alliance) and the Guardian Drug Stores.

Some associated pharmacies which are not connected with any particular Alberta wholesale are known informally as independent banner groups, and include the Value Drug Marts and Pharm-a-save outlets.

## **Pharmaceutical Manufacturing in Alberta**

No doubt many pharmacists used their skill and training to make remedies or health and beauty aids which they sold to their own clientele. A perusal of the several formula books of Alberta pharmacists which have been donated to the Archives of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association would confirm this. The following discussion is limited to those pharmacists and others who broadened their scope and marketed goods of their own manufacture to consumers on a city-wide, provincial, or Dominion wide scale.

**Fletcher Products.** In the southern Alberta town of Magrath, Ira C. Fletcher, his son Nyal A. Fletcher and his grandson Glenn F. Fletcher have made their name well known across Canada by the manufacturing and marketing of "Fletcher's Sore Mouth Medicine". Although other products have been and are being made by this family, such as a popular Curry Powder, it is the Sore Mouth Remedy which is best known.

The product is made from a formula which Dr. C. W. Sanders, owner of the Magrath Pharmacy 1903 to 1912, used to make. So many people found it helpful to ease the discomfort of mouth and gum irritations that the Fletcher family, successors to Dr. Sanders, modified the formula and obtained a patent for it. Under the Fletcher name it has become a popular remedy sold across Canada and has had some success in the United States as well.

As volume increased, the Fletchers arranged to have the product made by the Henry K. Wampole Co. and to have it distributed by Mel and Bill Maltby of Maltby Bros. Ltd.. This remedy, with nearly 90 years of Alberta history behind it, is still enjoying a steady sale.

**Neuralgic Elixir**  
*An invaluable specific for all forms of*  
**NEURALGIA, TIC-DOLOREUX, RHEUMATISM,  
 PAINS IN THE HEAD, &C.**  
**DOSE FOR ADULTS**—One tablespoonful, in water, every  
 three or four hours until relieved.  
 (Not to be given to Children under twelve years of age.)  
*Registered at Ottawa No. 1360, the Patent or Proprietary  
 Medicine Act.*  
**PRICE 50 CENTS**  
 PREPARED SOLELY BY  
**R. HARVEY, Ph.C.,** Dispensing Chemist  
 1227 9TH AVENUE E.  
 PHONE CALGARY, ALBERTA

Some household remedies, disinfectants etc. have been manufactured in Calgary by individuals who may or may not have been pharmacists but who were certainly chemists. From 1928 until 1940, E. E. Landry was listed in directories as a chemist and wholesale druggist marketing his products. A. Murphy, a barber, put out a patent remedy called "No-Ake Foot Eze" in the 1930's. J. H. Lavallee Mfr. Co. had a chemical laboratory in the city from 1930 to 1947 employing assistants Miss. A. Brown and Mrs. Alberta Mack but his products are not known to us at present. During the 1930's and 1940's, Francis R. Savage marketed the well known chlorinated bleach and disinfectant "Savage Water".

**Reginald Harvey.** Reginald Harvey, retail pharmacist of Calgary, manufactured and sold many products from his pharmacy with attractive packaging and labelling which were well accepted in Alberta. His Iceland Moss Cough Syrup and Cough Drops and his Ginger Wine Essence were especially popular.

**William A. Acton.** William A. Acton, who practised pharmacy in central and southern Alberta from 1914, settled in Calgary and in the 1930's established Acton Manufacturing. His preparations included Acton's Stomach Powders and Tablets which are well remembered by pharmacists of those times.

**E. P. 'Teddy' Leacock.** E. P. 'Teddy' Leacock, well known to Alberta pharmacists as a manufacturers agent, manufactured "Gray's Grey Caps" in Calgary



for many years. He prepared the powder from the formula then, as his daughter relates, he and she filled the dry gelatine capsules on their kitchen table. They then packaged them, with printed instruction, in cardboard boxes. The product was recommended for the relief of rheumatic pain. The claims for its effectiveness were modified over the years to comply with changing Federal regulations.

Leacock, like his famous brother Stephen, was a humorist and no doubt chuckled over an advertisement which he devised making use of the initials G. G.. It showed the head of a horse looking over a billboard and reference was made to the double sounding use of the G.G.s.

The capsules were expensive for the times, \$2.00 per box, 3 boxes for \$5.00, but were sold with a money back guarantee. Testimonials were received from across Canada. Mr. Leacock continued to prepare the capsules for special orders even towards the end of his life, but after his death they were no longer made.

**John J. Weinfield.** John J. Weinfield had four retail drug stores in Calgary at different times from 1917 to 1928. "J. J." had done some manufacturing in Montreal prior to 1917 under the name Figlet Drug Co.. In Calgary he established the Drug Craft Laboratories and obtained patent rights for products named Iosol, Volta and Laxades in 1920 and evidently made and sold them, as well as Figlets, in Calgary at least. In 1934 Mr. Weinfield established Holland Herbal Remedies in the MacLean Block on 8th Ave. E. and for a brief period sold a number of products bearing the Holland Herbal name. Mr. Weinfield later moved to Vancouver where he lived to the age of 106 years.

**Pan Chemicals Ltd..** Pan Chemicals Ltd. was founded by Horace Mawson in 1963, in Calgary, with the idea of having pharmacists investing in and owning their own importing, distributing and hopefully manufacturing company. All shareholders were to have an equal number of shares. Among the shareholders were: Ted Brewerton, Ross Marshall, Ken Penley, Horace Mawson and Dorothea Mawson. The first and most successful product was "School Vitamins", imprinted from Hoffman LaRoche. Several prescription pharmaceuticals were imported from a Danish manufacturing company. These products bore trademarks prefixed with "Pan" and were very reasonably priced. Due to under-capitalization and lack of widespread support, Pan Chemicals was disbanded three or four years later.

**Harris Wondro.** Harris Wondro was one of the better known home remedies made in Alberta. It was prepared in Calgary by George Harris Sr., an herbalist.

Mr. Harris had suffered chronic rheumatism but in 1912 found that his condition was helped by a product obtained from Scotland. In 1918 Mr. Harris met the maker, obtained the formula and method of manufacture and began to make Harris Wonder Health Restorer in Calgary. Due to government regulations, the label was changed in 1932 to read "Harris Wondro".

The product sold well, mainly due to word of mouth recommendations. Then as well, as many Calgarians will recall, advertising was done by billboards. The manufacturing was done in the Windsor Park district which at that time was mostly remote prairie. There was a purpose in this isolation as one characteristic of Harris Wondro was a very unpleasant odour. Later, when deodorizing equipment became available, the plant was moved to 1742-10 th Ave. SW. Calgary.

Other products were made by Harris Wondro Ltd.. The liquid tonic was later also prepared in soft gelatine capsules with the help of the Parke-Davis and Co.. The tonic ingredients were also used in "Tarine Salve" along with olive oil and archangel tar. As well the firm made Harris Black Ointment, Harris Cough Mixture, and Harris Thymus Bitter Tonic later called Laxico.

George A. Harris, son of the founder, joined the company and was trained by his father as an herbalist and carried on after his father's death. But times changed, the popularity of liquid tonics declined and the public, through medical insurance plans, began to rely more on prescribed medicines. Harris Wondro Ltd., after 55 years in business, closed its doors in 1973.

**J. G. Templeton.** J. G. Templeton, while in Calgary from 1893 to 1900, was a very active pharmacist, being on council of the North West Territories Pharmaceutical Association and was its president in 1894. As well, even then, he was making his own pharmaceutical products. Of course, he became better known in later years when, from Toronto, he made and marketed, the well known Templeton products such as T.R.C.s, Raz Mah, Ren San, Templons and Flame Cream Liniment.

It seems plausible to expect that the products he made and sold in Calgary were fore-runners of some of those later remedies. His Calgary advertised products included:

Templeton's Rheumatic Wafers  
Templeton's "Cold In Your Head" for catarrh  
Simpson's Kidney Pills

It has been confirmed by the Archives Committee of A.Ph.A. through communication with son Gilbert Templeton, that T.R.C.s, Templeton's Rheu-

matic Capsules, were first made in Calgary then later improved. It is quite possible that Raz Mah and Ren San were developed from his catarrh and kidney medicines made in Calgary.

**Revillon Freres.** Revillon Freres was located in a six story building on the north-west corner of 104 St. & 102 Ave. in Edmonton in 1922 when Mr. A. Whitney Mathews worked there. They were or had been busy in the fur trade but to better serve some of their customers they added lines of merchandise which included some pharmaceuticals. Their drug department and manufacturing laboratory was on the west half of the fourth floor.

After graduation, pharmacist Matthews, who had been working with Capt. F. A. Stewart-Dunn in the latter's manufacturing laboratory, left to go with Revillon. His responsibilities included preparation of a number of standard galenicals, flavouring extracts etc.. The firm had an alcohol bond and used this solvent to macerate a few decoctions and make products such as Aromatic Elixir, Elixir Lacto Pepsin and a few tinctures.

To satisfy the demands of customers, the firm drifted into handling other drug store items and marketed these only through its own salesmen. Two such salesmen were Walter Husband, working a northern territory and Gerry Shapter working the south out of Calgary. Mr. Matthews left to join the faculty at the School of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta and was replaced at Revillon by Harry Martin. Dr. Matthews, of course, went on to have a distinguished career at the Universities of Alberta and British Columbia, and with the Riker Pharmaceutical Co. in the Toronto area, becoming its president in 1951.

The drug departments of Revillon were taken over by Mr. Joe Peacock and became the Peacock Drug and Stationery Co. which in turn was taken over by the Alberta National Drug Co..

**Patricia Pharmacal Co. and Cluny Laboratories.** In 1921, newly graduated pharmacist A. W. Matthews was too young to obtain his Alberta Pharmaceutical Association licence and accepted temporary employment with Captain F. A. Stewart-Dunn. Dunn had just started up his small laboratory on Jasper Ave. at 121 St. to manufacture a liquid rouge from a formula which his wife Patricia had acquired as a cosmetician in England. A native Alberta clay was used in this formula. The demand for this and other cosmetics fell well short of expectations so the lab turned to the manufacture of vanilla and lemon flavouring extracts since it possessed a bond for using ethanol.

The business moved in early 1922 to a location on 107 Ave.. It seemed evident that Dunn did not have the resources to compete with other firms who

made similar products so Patricia Pharmacal Co. did not last long. It is thought, but not confirmed, that after "Patricia" closed, Captain Dunn used the name "Cluny Laboratories" to carry on in business. A package of a household drug has been found in the Gledhill Drug Store at Calgary's Heritage Park, which bears the name of the maker as Cluny Lab., Edmonton.

Colonel F. A. Stewart-Dunn later became well known to many pharmacy students as head of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta.

**Dispensaries Limited.** Dispensaries Limited was founded in Edmonton by Clifford E. Lee. In 1967, Lee sold the business to employee Andrew Stanley and Bill Leisen and Jim Thorsley.

One well known product manufactured by this company in its early days was a dental anaesthetic which they called "7.6". It was sold to dentists and pharmacies throughout Alberta and as far away as Montreal. Dispensaries Limited was one of the first pharmacies in Edmonton to compound hydrocortisone as a cream and were one of the first to dispense "sulfa" drugs in Canada. Another first was to import *Rauwolfia Serpentina* and they did so from India in crude tablet form at the request of an Edmonton physician.

Dispensaries Limited grew to have seven dispensing locations and a wholesale in Edmonton.

**Graham's Crystals.** Mr. J. R. K. Graham, who operated a retail drug store in Edmonton, arranged to gather chemical crystals deposited in Lake Manitou, Manitoba. He packaged them in Edmonton and sold them as Graham's Crystals with some success. This was during the years when much interest was generated in the use of crystals by the popularity of products such as Krazy Water Krystals, Carlsbad Salts and other such remedies.

**Lanovan.** George Mazurenko, of Edmonton, had a particular interest in developing a moisturizing cream to relieve a dry skin problem. The patient with the dry and itchy skin was himself.

The 1953 pharmacy graduate hit upon a formula in 1970, after 17 years of experimentation. The compounded cream was named "Lanovan" by its founder. It worked for his dry skin condition and that of his customers who liked Lanovan so well that George Mazurenko was able to leave dispensing and devote his full time attention to Lanovan Products. The cream has enjoyed wide distribution in Edmonton and district and to some parts of Canada and the United States.

*Credits:*

<i>Standard Surgical</i>	<i>Herschell Fawcett</i>
<i>Gaetz-Cornett Whsle.</i>	<i>Ron Holmes</i>
<i>Rexall</i>	<i>Loren Morris</i>
<i>Delta Pharmacies Ltd.</i>	<i>Maurice Galarneau</i>
<i>Pan Chemicals Ltd</i>	<i>Horace Mawson</i>
<i>Revillon, Patricia</i>	<i>Dr. A. W. Matthews</i>
<i>Lanovan</i>	<i>George Mazurenko</i>
<i>Northwest Drug Ltd</i>	<i>Bob Rogers and George Johnson</i>

*and our thanks to the following for their helpful assistance: Cam Logan, Ted Crooks, Ken Waite, Mildred Bertram, Archie Logan, Bruce Harvey, Ozzie Geehan, Ted Marles, Stanley Winfield, Elmer Bergh and Joan Fellows.*

# The Golden Age of Prohibition

by Donald M. Cameron

AS IT APPLIES to the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, the cold, bare historical facts that surround the Golden Age of Prohibition are dull. The activities which associate make the story. For example: the Minutes of a special meeting simply record the fact that, "A new Prohibition Act to come into force on July 1, 1916, was discussed."

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held July 6th and 7th, 1916 at the MacDonald Hotel. Among the entries is to be found this item: "The Department of the Attorney General sent a man to this meeting to explain the Liquor Act. Liquor was to be sold under a medical doctor's prescription only."

The next entry of note is to be found in the reporting of a special meeting of the Council held January 24, 1917. Purpose of the meeting was to propose amendments to the Liquor Act to "make it practicable". (The quotes are my own because here we are in 1985 and amendments are proposed to allow lounges to remain open until 2 A.M. and all liquor is to be consumed by 3 A.M. This is practicable?) Some recommendations were proposed at that meeting including one delightful one which reads:

- (1) Pharmacists are in hearty sympathy with the spirit of the Liquor Act.  
(Most appropriate!)

I am reminded of the story of the parson who had taken to his bed with ague. The kind ladies of his parish sent along a number of goodies including a jar of cherries which, unknown to them, had fermented. He was moved to express his thanks in a note which read, in part, "thank you for the cherries and also the spirit in which they were sent."

The next sad entry from a special meeting held May 22, 1917 in Calgary, reads: "At this time retail sales of Wines, Alcoholic Tonics, Invalid Wines, and

Ports and Malts of all kinds passed out of the hands of retail druggists. Essence of Lemon was included in that list." What a blow!

Things must have moved along reasonably smoothly - for a time - because the next entry of note appears in the Minutes of a special meeting on January 8, 1919 at the MacDonald Hotel. The entry reads: "From this date liquor prescriptions shall be on prescribed official forms". Were their forgeries? Verbal prescriptions? Or what misdemeanours led to this drastic move?

In any event this leads us to one item of gossip which persists to this very day. Some (unscrupulous?) doctors would get their supply of official forms, sign them and assign them to "selected" drug stores with the admonition that they be used to dispense liquor, (if the patient coughed or complained of dizziness) and an additional \$2.00 was to be collected and \$1.00 of this remitted to the kindly physician at month's end.

As Flip Wilson is wont to say, "The Devil made me do it" or else how do you explain the ominous entries in the Minutes of the annual meeting of 1919 held September 3, 4, and 5th at the Palliser Hotel in Calgary.

There was a resolution to request other means of the distribution and sale of Liquor, or else a stiffening up of the requirements on medical doctors and pharmaceutical chemists. Liquor infractions brought resolutions to cancel licenses and strike certain names from the Register.

There was a resolution condemning the development of the sale of Liquor for prescription purposes by the use of drug stores, and in the interest of public and private morality and honesty they should find some way to distribute Liquor without subterfuge or misrepresentation.

So even then there was skulduggery and you have to pause and question the sincerity of your own folks who always commenced a lecture on morality with - "now in my day".

Our good forefathers in the pharmaceutical profession decided to stop fooling around. The next extract gives proof. From the Minutes of a special meeting held, February 18, 1921 in the Speaker Pingle's room, Parliament Buildings, Edmonton:

It was moved that members found guilty of violations of the Liquor Act be struck off the Register by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Carried!

Meanwhile business and commerce were rolling merrily along and it is whispered, even today, that so and so made a fortune out of the town pump!

For the neophyte it must be recorded that nearly every small town had a "town pump" where those who did not have running water (almost no one did) or had a pump in the kitchen (very few) went for water for drinking and

**McIVOR'S DRUG STORE**  
 718 THIRD STREET N.E. CALGARY, Alta.  
 Telephone M3560

For *Mrs.*

**R** *No Vin. Bull. 3x16*

*Gp7* *13097*

Dr. *H. E. Shaw*

Date *July 7/27*

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

**No. P 19201**

DATE *Feb 1 1921*

ONLY VALID FOR FEBRUARY, 1921

REQUIRED for Mr.

Address.

*Spils Fruementi 3X1*

*Regor*

*Calgary*

Name and Address of Physician.

RECEIVED from.

Medicine as above prescribed.

BOOK

**129**

Name and Address of Person Receiving Liquor. *16*

Most doctors, in one file we examined, used Latin to dignify whiskey and brandy, but used plain English to order rum, gin or ale. The patients' names have been covered for confidentiality.

cooking and endless trips on Sunday night to fill tubs and boilers for the Monday morning wash. So how did so and so make a fortune out of the "town pump"? It is alleged that so and so mixed Liquor with water! Now most of us know that whisky (by the more sophisticated names of rye or scotch or, perish forbid, even bourbon) and water is a standard cough medicine but some cads, it is said, served watered whisky with water. How low can a professional sink?

The moral majority (you thought that was new?) made a pitch at the annual meeting held June 7th in the Palliser Hotel in Calgary. It is reported:

Objection was raised to the payment of the Excise Tax of \$14.85 per gallon on alcohol for pharmacists, when only \$4.00 per gallon was required by manufacturers. The objection was raised by the B.C. Association, sent on to us and then on to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association! "Margins of profit have always been a major concern to druggists". (The quote is from the editor). In retrospect one can almost (?) condone those who mixed a little water with the alcohol when they were at such a decided disadvantage compared to "industry".



Now hear this: at the same meeting it is reported:

The A.Ph.A. goes on record as favouring the Government taking over the entire sale and control of Liquor due to the loss of tone and prestige in the drug business throughout the province. The motion was carried by 17 to 8. (The names of those who voted in the negative are not recorded).

It is further recorded:

It was moved that a ballot be taken by mail from all members of the Association on the full sale of Liquor, limited sale of 8 oz. maximum, or get rid of it entirely.

There are always a few! Right?

The Minutes of the annual meeting of June, 1922 reported that:

A request was made for a Police Officer to check up on the sale and handling of Liquor, and prosecute, instead of by the Association Inspector.

(So you see that over 50 years ago there were those who concluded that pharmacists were incapable of controlling their own affairs and were ready to rely on "the government": a pox on them!)

Well – enough is enough!

There appears in the Minutes of the annual meeting of 1923 held in the Palliser Hotel in Calgary on June 11 the following:

Great annoyance was expressed at the actions of stool pigeons regarding the liquor traffic and the general opinion was that we should be free to handle liquor as at 1916, that is, in open stock for prescriptions, or ordinary prescriptions forms, or throw it out altogether, and if it was abused by the druggist his name shall be struck off the list. We do not wish to be part of the liquor control system.

We didn't and we aren't. What a shame.

The last recorded reference is in the Minutes of the regular meeting of 1927. It says, simply:

No mention is made in our Minutes of the passing out of the old liquor sales.

So endeth the sermon and a page from the colourful history of pharmacy in our Alberta.

## The Way It Was

### Window Dressing

*by J. K. Penley*

An art which at one time was very much a part of retail pharmacy was that of window dressing or window displays. During recent years there has been a trend to open the entire area of the pharmacy interior to the viewer by keeping the window area free of any visual obstacle. Prior to this trend, most retail drug stores had a set-back bulkhead, behind the glass, of from a few feet to a couple of yards, into which were set an assortment of merchandise or a single featured product, behind which were artistically designed and colourful cardboard signs, supported by easels, extolling the virtues of the product. Such signs, with dummy cartons, were supplied by the manufacturers or distributors of the product. Often that same firm would employ a professional display artist to install the "window". These window dressers would arrive armed with an array of crepe paper in folds and rolls, pins, tacks and tack hammer. They also carried a kit of display material supplied by the product distributor.

The alternate to having a professional window dresser was to have this work done by a member of the drug store staff, using similar material as described above. In either case, the ritual was an expected part of the work routine and usually a certain day was set aside each week to remove the previous display, wash the window glass interior, sweep out the dead flies, pins, tacks and other debris and start to install a fresh display. Certain staff members drew this job, either by willing use of their artistic talent or by their low position on the staff totem pole. A certain talent was required to fashion floral arrangements from crepe paper, to cut, stretch, twist and fold crepe rolls into attractive backgrounds. Crepe paper had its drawbacks; it faded in sunlight, ran its colours when wet and kept its fresh look for only a short time. The use of silk or satin sheets, easily draped over shelves and boxes, replaced



Professional Window Display at Sprague Drug, Edmonton.

paper displays much to the relief of the staff. These fabrics could also be washed and reused until they too faded. Stock for the window display had to be chosen carefully. Sun could fade or destroy some merchandise. Some items could melt, or rot, or lose potency by exposure to sunlight. In cold weather, some items could freeze. For this reason "dummies", which resembled the real thing, were often substituted, these being supplied by the manufacturer. The importance of window displays to retailers was illustrated by the inclusion of a question or two in the apprenticeship exams of the 1940's-1950's which asked the student to list several items which could be, or more importantly, could not be placed in sunlight, freezing conditions, etc..

The display being completed, the artist had to plan an escape from the window area. This required advance planning or one could be "painted" into a corner.

Professional window dressers which some may recall include, Chuck Yakimchuk and a man named Slim, in Edmonton, and Art Honeychurch and John McDermott in Calgary and district. Al Smith installed window displays in drug stores and elsewhere for Imperial Tobacco Co. in Calgary and district.

Some drug stores seemed to gain a reputation for their windows and a few in Calgary may be cited as examples. Noel A. Farrow nearly always had a small



George and Mrs. Chornell prepare to drive away in the first prize in the Curad display contest sponsored by Kendall-Bauer and Black, a 1953 Studebaker.

tray display of horehound candy in his window. Veteran Farrow always had his window draped in black on Remembrance Day, Nov. 11 th. Princess Drug windows advised that they had leeches and Spanish saffron for sale. Rex Harvey stressed his own manufactured products such as Iceland Moss cough remedies, Ginger Wine Extract. McDermid Drug usually had a camera & film display, Sproule's Depot drug had hundreds of empty Gillette Blue Blade boxes lining the inner base of their window. Apart from drug stores, the T. Eaton Co. had a policy to never display tobacco and they closed the drapes over their window displays on Sundays. King Drug on 8th Ave.W. departed from the artistic displays and put in a multi-product merchandising window every Wednesday, a day the staff dreaded. Groups of three of each item had to be arranged on small glass panels and each had to bear a price tag. If store stock ran out, as it often did, one had to delicately retrieve the desired article without destroying the display. The nearby Liggett store had nearly 150 linear feet of window displays on their busy corner. At the time of the Rexall 1 cent sale, the staff had to quickly install a complete change just prior to the sale and as quickly remove it after the sale. This was done by attaching stock, or dummy cartons, to wooden boards, with prices and signs prepared in advance. These could be quickly inserted in a vertical manner after affixing sale banners to the inner glass.

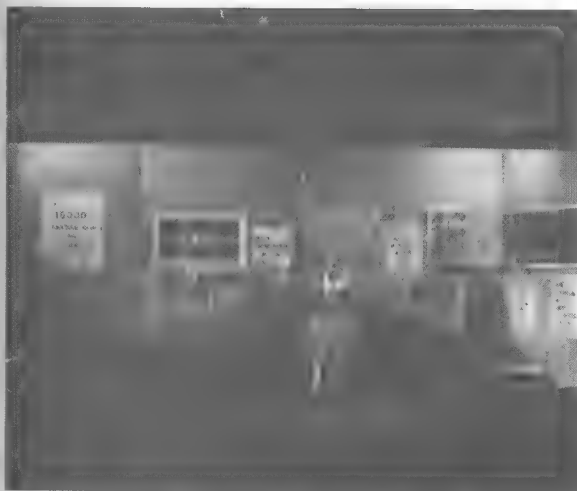
Contests were arranged by some firms in order to feature their particular product. Prizes were offered, from a few dollars to quite generous ones. George Chornell won such an award for a display in his Edmonton drug store and was given a car, a vacation trip and other benefits. Bill Mitchell in Calgary



Bill Mitchell of Black's Drug, Calgary, who finished second to George Chornell, receives his prize.

also received a generous prize at that time for his display. Randy Murray won one of the modest prizes for his display, \$5.00, and his employer suggested that they split it evenly as the store had supplied the crepe paper.

Apart from merchandising displays, many pharmacists installed professional displays, usually with an educational message as to the training required to become a pharmacist, or the care needed to store, protect and dispense medicinals. Such displays were encouraged by the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association by the awarding of the Gibbard Trophy for the best displays installed during Pharmacy Week. This trophy was first awarded in 1933 and was named for G.E. Gibbard, first president of C.Ph.A.. A cash award was also given, \$25.00 for each provincial winner and \$100.00 for the overall winner. Categories for competitors were arranged based on population of towns and cities, and by province. Through the kind assistance of the staff at the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and the Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal, we have been able to learn of the Alberta winners of this trophy from 1953 to 1963. The contest was discontinued in 1966.



Winner of the "Under 5000" class was Byers Drug, Stony Plain, Alberta. J. Murray Byers installed and created the display.  
photo: Can. Pharm. Journal.

1953	James T. Clarke	Clarke's Drug Store, Calgary	Alberta winner
1954	Noel A. Farrow	Farrow's Drug Store, Calgary	Alberta winner
1955	U of A students		Student category
1960	Murray J. Byers	Byers Drug, Stony Plain	First over all
1960	Virginia Mitchell	Vulcan Pharmacy, Vulcan	Town under 5000
1962	Murray J. Byers	Byers Drug, Stony Plain	Town under 5000
1962	Virginia Mitchell	Vulcan Pharmacy, Vulcan	2nd " " 5000
1963	Murray J. Byers	Byers Drug, Stony Plain	Town under 5000

Another trophy was awarded for the Annual Display Competition, National Pharmacy Week, for Retail Druggists of Alberta and was presented by the Charles E. Frosst & Co. This trophy is presently in the possession of Mrs. M.J. Byers whose late husband had won it in 1960, the last year it was awarded. One of the past winners, Kendal Roulson of Downtown Drugs, Calgary, recalls that a cash award, perhaps \$25.00, went with the trophy as well as a smaller "keeper" trophy. Names of winners inscribed on this Frosst trophy are:

- 1952 Wainwright Pharmacy
- 1953 Farrow's Drug Store, Calgary
- 1954 Capital Drugs, Edmonton
- 1955 Grove's Drug Store, Camrose
- 1956 McCready's Ltd., Lethbridge
- n.d. Draffin's Drug Store, Lethbridge (tie ?)



Prize winning Chornell display.

- 1957 Downtown Drugs, Calgary
- 1958 Downtown Drugs, Calgary
- 1959 Dunford Drug Co. Calgary
- 1960 Byers Drug, Stony Plain

## Pricing codes

*by J. K. Penley*

Over the years, pharmacists have marked the retail and the cost price of their merchandise in different ways. The retail price was there for both seller and buyer to see. However the cost price to the merchant, so necessary to know at times of taking inventory or for day to day information, was meant to be seen and understood only by the seller and sometimes only by the proprietor. Often this cost price was concealed by a code consisting of ten letters or symbols, each representing a single numeral. This information was sometimes written onto the article of merchandise, usually with erasable pencil, or on glass or cellophane by a grease pencil or felt crayon. Gift articles were often priced by a string tag. More sophisticated methods were devised during the 1950's and 1960's by use of a crank or electrically operated machine which printed all pertinent information, such as retail price, cost price, date, source etc., with a few letters or numerals. This was the beginning of the end for use of price codes. Although many still used them, mass merchandisers found their use too time consuming and gradually put the cost price boldly on the label with numerals mixed with other information which might confuse the curious. Then some wholesale companies, as a service, supplied ready made adhesive price labels which eliminated the need for any private code by the merchant.

The price code is a romantic study and a link with our history. Many pharmacists had a pride or fondness for their private code. A few of them are presented here, along with the names of those Albertans who used them or provided them.

### Codes derived from pharmaceutical terms

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0

P H A R M O C I S T	Used internationally (N.A.R.D.) and locally by many.
W I T C H h A Z E L	McLeod Drug, Temple-Duff Drug. A. McLeod, J. Nettleton.
H E X Y L A M I N O	Sprague Drug, Stubb's Drug, Maurice Makowichuk.
P U R G A T I V E S	Gaetz-Cornett Drug, Edgar Drug.
O L E U M T A N S Y	A. W. McKechnie Drug.
V I N U M A L O E S	Torrance Drug, Armstrong Drug.
H A R M O N D E S T	Mitchell Drug, T. Hart, G. Chornell, W. Baydala.
F L U I D E R G O T	King Drug, Fred and Gweyn King.
R H E U M A T I S O	Douglass Drug, Ross Douglass.
A C H E R O N T I S	Rogers Drug.
T A K E P H Y S I C	Bridgeland Pharmacy, Hugh, Betty and Doug Levy.
T R U L F A Z I N E	All Nighter Drug Mart, Midnighter.
B R I M S T O N E X	Oyen Drug. Muriel Johnston.
I S O T H E R M A L	E. Shilleto.
P H A R M O C I E X	Jean Buryniuk.
H E A R T B L O C K	Vic Harrison.
V O L U M E T R I C	John Elder, Mitch Dobbie.
H Y D R A S T I N E	Lukes Drug. Jim and Bob Lukes.
D I S P E N S A R Y	Anonymous.

### Prices codes used or derived from family names

D M G O U R S L N C	Don Cameron. From initials of family members.
M A H O D P R I C E	Joe Mahood used by dropping an O from his name.
A N G U S W H I T E	Seen in Ontario by Cec. Henderson.
J A C O B L E V I S	Julian Ferorak.
E D R I C H A R D S	Richards Pharmacy, Sun Drug.
F R A N K C O W L E	J. W. Somers, W. H. O'Dell.
C O G T A M B L Y N	used in some Alberta Tamblyn stores.

### Other prices codes

S P E A R O M I N T	Jack Shillabeer.
B E T H A N K F U L	Hugh Belsher.



ADESTVIRUM McDermid Drug, Neil and Ken McDermid.  
 GOITDARKEY J. W. Morris, supplied by Walter Hill.  
 ITPAYSMENX Harper Thornton. Harper Drug.  
 DANGEROUSY Ken Roulson, Jack Black, Wm. Marshall.  
 KOSTAPRICE Penley Drug. Ken and Prue Penley.  
 BLACKSMITH Jean Moore Maxie. Moore's Drug.  
 BLACKSTOVE George Johnson.  
 CANTWHIPUS Walter Chorney, Nellie Estabrook.  
 PATHFINDER J. Kirby, Ron Schuster, Owl Drug, J. Black, M. Makowichuk.  
 ABCDEFGHIX Howard Young, Ed. Powell.  
 WORKSTEADY Jim Wylie.  
 PRUDENTIAL Don McKeague, J. O. H. Dunford.  
 FAIRCUSTOM J. Pearson, Dunc. McPherson, G. Darichuk, Sloan Drug.  
 DONTBELAZY Went Neely.  
 MAKEPROFIT Merrick Drug.  
 AVBWCXDYEZ Elmer and Byron Bergh, George Snelgrove.  
 PONDICHERY Joe Korczynski. Harold Henker. Doris Enderud.  
 ILOVEDUTYX Frankie Eng. Mac-Glen Pharmacy.  
 GIVETHANKS D. Charles Jones, Jack & Eleanor Corbett.  
 MANITOBISKY Julian Fedorak.  
 BLACKMORED Sam Friedman. Sunalta Drug.  
 RUSTYBACON Errett King.  
 OLDWHISKEY Jack Agnew.  
 BRUSHCLEAN Visiting pharmacist from Florida.  
 MYOWNPRICE Gerry Blanchfield.  
 1234567890 Ted Marles.  
 XQCDEFGPRO Don King, Pingle Drug.  
 OMANBEJUST Andy and Murray Mackay. Fort Pharmacy.  
 MAYFLOWERS Herschell Fawcett.  
 HERODATUSX Lawrence Blain. Stuart and Hazel Andreen.  
 DVHOSPITAL Walter Maday, University Hospital.  
 GOBYTHERAN C.C. McKechnie, George Johnson.  
 HALIBURTON Clifford Black, William Mitchell.  
 PUSHTOGAIN W. M. Huston, M. J. Huston, Ashcroft B.C..  
 STRICKLAND Higgs Drug, Wetaskiwin, Wally Butterwick.  
 OUTLANDISH Used in Banff. Supplied by Bruce Harvey.  
 A1E2I3O4U5 A. P. Noble.  
 2345678901 Bill and Margo Ward.  
 4567890123 Chas. Wylie. Add 3 to each real number. Jim Wylie.  
 MYOCPUIZX Pete Stock. Starts with initials for My OCP (Ontario College of Pharmacy).

Joe Ruzicka, Thorsby, used 2,3 or 4 sides of a square for each numeral.

Walter Boddy, Gaetz-Cornett Drug, Red Deer, possessed a code based on the Greek Alphabet.

Victor Hessel, Okotoks, used a portion of the alphabet in reverse order.

Bill Rook has seen a code using TUVWXYZ interspersed with symbols including the scruple sign.

Maurice Makowichuck saw a code in which the numerals were placed in a "tick-tack-toe" grid.

## The Great Depression

*by J. K. Penley*

The Great Depression of the 1930's, or, as sometimes called, The Thirsty Thirties, was a tragic period for most Canadians and much worse for those living in an area where the economy was based on agriculture. Much of Alberta was thus affected during those drought years and this included retail pharmacists.

Probably some business people were initially and directly hurt by the stock market crash of October 1929, but it is the longer term effect in retail sales and employment opportunities that we can examine by reading biographical histories obtained by the Archives Committee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

At first there were very few pharmacy failures. Some pharmacists were indeed quite prosperous following several years of buoyant business, including, for some, the extra income sent their way by prohibition regulations. Their retail shops were full of inventory and, if they had been good business men, all stock and fixtures were paid for. Such a retailer, when he felt the crunch of the depression, could sell down his inventory assets until only a small replacement quantity kept the shelves looking full. Other economies kept the proprietor in business; perhaps by working longer hours; by working alone or with reduced staff; by using a bicycle or walking to work in place of an automobile; by living above, behind or in the drug store. Some took all their meals, except breakfast, while working in the store. Although there certainly were some drug store failures, particularly in the smaller towns, it seems surprising that so many pharmacies survived.

This was the observation that persuaded several young students to choose a pharmacy career following high school or to continue apprenticeship in the pharmacy. More than a few delivery boys and apprentices were advised and encouraged by travelling representative Gerry Shapter who told them "You may never get rich as a pharmacist, but you will never starve". Gordon Myers, living on a farm near Vulcan, consulted his father as to a career

following high school and they both decided that "they had never seen a druggist go broke".

Those that graduated in pharmacy in the 1930's might not have been so sure that they had made the right choice. Jobs were scarce and poorly paid. Harold Henker recalls that in his class of 1934, only two of the twenty or so graduates had a job to go to. After a few short summer relief locums, Harold was one of the lucky ones to get a job. It was at the T. Eaton Co. Drug Department and the pay was \$25.00 per week. The manager, James Balkwill, was paid \$45.00. Archie McLeod, who graduated a year later in 1935, considered himself lucky to get a job with Liggett Drug. Indeed he had a title, "assistant manager" under manager Ed Kadlec. It paid this Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy \$16.00 per week which was less than that paid to the lunch counter manager. Of interest was the work contract that Mr. McLeod was required to sign. It allowed the employee to resign or be dismissed with one hour's notice.

It was sad for rural pharmacists to see the plight of their farm and ranch friends. A customer of A.A. Keir at Trochu regularly bought a box of Dodd's Kidney Pills for 29 cents. Eventually he could not raise the cash and offered a chicken in payment. Finally, with no chickens left, the man came in with a parcel and said to Mr. Keir, "you like rabbit, don't you"?

Hedley Hart's business in Gadsby was suffering. No green could be seen in the dry, brown fields. One morning he took in only 25 cents in sales and decided it was time to move to Cochrane. Although a greener area, business was still not buoyant. His saviour was the 5 cent ice cream cone. Hart made his own ice cream, a new concept then, and gained a reputation for his product. Living in the rear of the store, he spent part of many of the nights making ice cream, a task he would not allow others to do. Townspeople, tourists, Sunday drivers from Calgary, all seemed to have 5 cents to spend and those nickels added up, plus some customers did further shopping while there. The Cochrane Ice Cream Cone is still a tradition.

In Blackie, a distraught farmer told pharmacist Harold Waterbury that the grocer would only pay him 4 cents a dozen for eggs. Harold, taking pity on the man, said he would buy the lot for cash, not realizing that 6 cases held 180 dozen eggs. As he went to Calgary once each week, Harold took the eggs and sold them to the Tea Kettle Inn restaurant which offered Harold 12 cents a dozen. This then happened each Sunday to each party's satisfaction and pharmacist Waterbury called himself an "egg bootlegger".

The travelling salesman encountered evidence of those hard times as well. Bob Westrop began his calls for John Wyeth and Brother Co. in 1936. In one city, of the 38 calls he could make, only ten drug stores still had credit at the wholesale. 28 were on a C.O.D. basis

The annual sales figures of Noel A. Farrow's Drug Store in Calgary, paint a picture of the diminished business during the 1930's and the recovery that came with wartime:

1928 \$33,000	1934 \$16,650	1940 \$18,500
1929 \$36,000	1935 \$17,000	1941 \$21,000
1930 \$26,700	1936 \$16,500	1942 \$25,000
1931 \$18,700	1937 \$17,000	1943 \$28,700
1932 \$15,800	1938 \$16,000	1944 \$35,000
1933 \$17,300	1939 \$16,700	1945 \$39,000

There were business failures among pharmacies during the 1930's, of course. A few were blamed, by their owners, on "hard times", "lack of trade", "crop failure in the district". Some blamed themselves for lack of capital and lack of business experience. A few found it to be a long day with few or no customers and it became easy to reach for a potable such as Spiritus Frumenti, Spiritus Vini Gallica or Tincture of Orange to help pass the time and quicken the path to failure. Many of the longer established drug stores seemed to survive but several new ventures had a short life. The shortest business duration that came to our attention was the People's Drug Store, opened by Stanley R. Luckham, in Consort, November 1932. It closed December 1932. Those were Hard Times, indeed.

## Pharmacists in Public Service

*By J.K. Penley*

As revealed in recent national surveys: Of all professionals, pharmacists enjoy one of the highest degrees of respect and confidence from the general public. There is reason to expect that it has always been so in Alberta communities. Therefore it is not surprising that many pharmacists were elected or appointed by their fellow citizens to public office.

The histories of pharmacy in Alberta communities, sent to the Archives Committee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, abound with stories of the local pharmacist being the driving force behind activities such as; starting up the telephone exchange, the lending library or the musical society. He was found to be the postmaster or sitting on the hospital board, on town or city council or with the school board trustees. Often the pharmacist was the mayor and a few also served as M.L.A. or M.P..

As we examine the political service of our colleagues, it becomes apparent that proportionally fewer pharmacists took civic posts in the larger cities



Judge William G. Lesick  
and Winnie Lesick

although there are exceptions. For example; in over 115 years of Calgary's history, only four men have served as alderman and two of those were elected when Calgary was a small town. Rather it is in the smaller centres that we see more participation in civic service. It seems unlikely that the will to assume such duties would differ among a group of professionals regardless of where they were located. Perhaps the reason was due to working conditions. Regulations and common sense required that the pharmacist always be present when the pharmacy was open. In the cities, with several competitors vying for customers, the hours of opening grew increasingly longer, extending into evenings, the very time that was found most convenient to others for holding meetings. In smaller centres the drug store may have been closed evenings or if not, a responsible staff could summon the nearby pharmacist back in an emergency.

The names of many pharmacists who were in public office have been noted from the community histories received. The numbers of trustees and councilors are so large as to be impractical to list here but a few who served for an unusually long period are noted;

In Red Deer, Ronald Holmes was a school board trustee for twelve years and its chairman for two years.

Peter Hodgson of Stettler spent eleven years on three boards-council, school and hospital.

Kenneth Hill is the only person to date who served on the four major boards in Fort McMurray, namely; council, school, hospital and college.

As well as being mayor of Eckville, Tom. Forhan was on town council for twenty consecutive years.



Robert Dowling.

Michael Bain Sr. served Castor for twenty two years on council and was mayor also.

It is interesting to note that the first woman to be elected to the office of mayor in Alberta was pharmacist Amy Falconer of Consort.

One year a bit of humour was injected into a Calgary election campaign by Lorne Anger, a pharmacist of rather short stature. His slogan was "Put a little Anger into city hall". He was elected.

The following are those names which have been brought to our attention as having been elected to the positions of Mayor, M.L.A. or M.P.:

Andy Anderson, Mayor of Lethbridge approx. 20 years.

G. S. Armstrong was Mayor of Edmonton 1911-1912.

Michael Bain Sr. 22 years councillor & 6 years as Mayor of Castor.

D. W. Bole, formerly of Banff, was a Member of Parliament in 1904.

Dr. R. G. Brett of Banff was a Lieutenant-Governor of Alberta.

Hugh W. Chambers was Mayor of Didsbury for 18 years.

Percy W. Cope sat in the Mayor's chair in Raymond for 14 years.

Robert Dowling of Jasper was an M.L.A. and Cabinet Minister.

David Fegan is Mayor of Beiseker.

Thomas Forhan was twice Mayor of Eckville and also an alderman.

Amy Falconer was Mayor of Consort 1945-1946.

Donald H. Fisher of Vauxhall was Mayor 1978 to 1984.

Keith French served Alberta as an M.L.A. from 1959 until 1975.

H. H. Gaetz was an early Mayor of Red Deer, 1907 and 1908.

Dick Galeta served Two Hills as Mayor for many years.

C. E. Gerhart of Coronation was an M.L.A., Cabinet Minister.  
W. G. Galbraith was Mayor of Lethbridge 1907.  
Sam Hardin was a Mayor at Fort McMurray.  
W. R. Edmond Lambert was a Mayor of Strathmore.  
James I. Gibson served Alliance as Mayor from 1928 until 1935.  
Victor Hessel was twice Mayor of Okotoks, in 1922 and in 1942-43.  
Fay Johnson of Ponoka served a term as Mayor.  
Ernest E. Jacques was Mayor of Arrowwood 1942 to 1945.  
William Lesick of Edmonton was a Member of Parliament.  
Stan Lissack was a Mayor of Daysland.  
Edmund W. R. Lambert served Strathmore as Mayor for 10 years.  
Harold Killick was a Mayor of Rocky Mountain House.  
Errett King was elected Mayor of Vulcan 1936 to 1939.  
Robert Kitson was a Mayor of Lethbridge.  
Chuck Maugher of Medicine Hat was Mayor 1967-1968.  
Peter McNab was a Mayor of Brooks.  
David Mitchell served three terms as Mayor of Vulcan.  
Howard Pickup was a Mayor of Drayton Valley.  
Charles S. Pingle of Medicine Hat was an M.L.A. 1925 to 1928.  
M. J. Rowland was Mayor of Clyde.  
Ralph Shellenberg served as Mayor of Brooks.  
Robert Sutherland served Westlock as Mayor.  
Harvey Switzer served as Mayor of Edson.  
William Switzer of Hinton was Mayor and an M.L.A.  
David Thomson was Mayor of Milk River 1953-1954.  
Dr. H. C. Wilson served a term as Mayor of Fort Edmonton.

## Dynasties

*by W. L. Boddy*

There are many pharmacists in Alberta who may be related in some way and who as a family group are well known. For the purpose of this article we have adhered to the definition of dynasty which stipulates that it is the relationship to direct descendants, from parent to child to grandchild etc., and in our case, all of whom happen to be pharmacists.

**The Bailey Family.** Theo Bailey began his apprenticeship with the S.E. Large & Co. of Camrose in 1912. He enlisted to serve in World War I then studied pharmacy, graduating in 1926. Theo became postmaster of Camrose for 17



top left: Theodore Bailey.  
top right: Stuart Bailey.  
left: Cindy Gordichuk (nee Bailey).

years then returned to pharmacy in 1943 and had his own business. Theo retired in 1973.

Stu Bailey apprenticed with his father and graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1958. He opened the Stuart Bailey Drug in 1960. In 1962 Stuart and Theo merged their two businesses which continued to operate until 1973. Stuart then became director of the pharmacy at the Rosehaven Care Centre. In 1983, Stu was appointed Auditor/Inspector with A.Ph.A. and in this capacity has become well and favourably known to many Alberta pharmacists

Cindy (Bailey) Gordichuk is the third generation of the Bailey family to become a pharmacist, graduating in 1977. She opened the first retail pharmacy in Hobbema.



**The Cornyn Family.** Adam Cornyn graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1905 and registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1915. He operated his pharmacy in Pincher Creek until his death in 1933. The pharmacy was kept in the family by Mrs. Cornyn with the help of a pharmacist until her son was able to take it over twelve years later.

William Cornyn graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1941 but found a war in progress and joined the R.C.A.F. After his discharge in 1945, Bill took over the business and operated it until his death in 1973.

Alan Cornyn, son of William and grandson of Adam is carrying on the family name in pharmacy and the Cornyn Drug Store Ltd. continues to thrive on Main St. in Pincher Creek.

**The Fletcher Family.** Ira Camill Fletcher was born August 6, 1884, in Salt Lake City, Utah. The family came to Magrath (then known as Pot Hole Creek) in 1899 and with a team of horses helped to build an irrigation canal. He began his career in pharmacy under the jurisdiction of the North West Territories Pharmacy Act, apprenticing in Pincher Creek and in Lethbridge. The apprenticeship included the administration of anaesthetics, and assisting with some operations. He purchased the pharmacy of his preceptor, Dr. Sanders, in 1912. Among his many duties was the casual pulling of teeth and he soon had a two quart jar full of such extractions.

Son Nyal Alston Fletcher apprenticed with his father then graduated from U. of A. in 1937 and won the A.Ph.A. Gold Medal for proficiency in pharmacy. Nyal was so named after the pharmaceutical firm Nyal, further establishing the Fletcher name with the profession they loved. Father and son and now grandson have made the name Fletcher well known across Canada by means of marketing their own formulae (see Manufacturing).

Glenn A. Fletcher is Nyal's son and had the unique experience of serving his apprenticeship under and working with both his father and grandfather in the Magrath Pharmacy. Glenn graduated in 1965. Ira passed away the same year on Oct. 12 1965.

**The Hill Family.** Walter Herbert Hill apprenticed with James W. Morris starting June 1913. He served in the Great War from Jan. 1916 until spring 1919 then returned to Edmonton to again work with Jimmie Morris. Walter graduated in pharmacy from U. of A. in 1921. In 1923 he worked with Angus Sutherland of Fort McMurray then joined the firm, later becoming sole owner. Mr. Hill opened the first drug store in Yellowknife in 1938. Mr. Hill was an Honorary Life Member of A.Ph.A.

Kenneth Hill also became a pharmacist and joined the firm in 1955 after graduating from the University of Alberta the same year. Ken has been an

active community worker in Fort McMurray.

David Hill, who no doubt apprenticed with and worked for his father and grandfather, was the third member of the Hill family to attend and graduate from the University of Alberta in pharmacy, doing so in 1978. He too joined the firm. Walter Hill died in 1986. Hill Drugs Limited was sold in 1988 ending some 66 years of Hill family pharmaceutical service to Fort McMurray.

**The Long Family.** Fred C. Long Phm.B. was a member of the North West Territories Pharmaceutical Association then joined the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association when it was formed in 1911. He had started a drug store in Manville prior to 1905. He did so by erecting a tent to store and sell his merchandise. One can wonder and speculate of the problems of protecting perishables from freezing cold and summer heat when stored under a thin layer of canvas roof over a wooden frame. A move was made in 1905 to Vermilion, the proposed rail road divisional point. A wooden building was erected in 1916 but was destroyed by fire in 1918. Mr. Long may not have witnessed this sad calamity as he had joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1915. Post war he was to return to his drug store, now in a brick structure.

George Carmen Long, a 1933 graduate, took over the pharmacy in 1941 and was active in pharmacy and in Vermilion for several years. He died in 1974.

Judith M. Long was the third pharmacist in this family, graduating in 1960. She was the daughter of Carmen Long and is now Mrs. Judith Bell. Brent Long, son of Carmen, although not a pharmacist, managed the drug store after his father's death.

**The Mann Family.** Aaron Mann attended school in his home city of Calgary then started his pharmacy career by delivering on bicycle then apprenticing with Bill Mitchell and Cliff Black at Black Drug. He graduated from the U. of A. with the class of 1942 then joined the navy where his pharmacy training was utilized as a sick berth attendant. Post war, Aaron practised at Mahood Drug then in a professional pharmacy at the Calgary Associate Clinic then in retail at his Allied Drug Store. A career change which is discussed elsewhere in this book required a move to Edmonton where he had a very interesting and varied career.

Patricia Mann Ainscough is Aaron's daughter and also followed a pharmaceutical career, graduating from U. of A. in 1966. Pat married pharmacist Paul Ainscough and thus another pharmacist joined the Mann clan. They now have their own pharmacy in Drumheller. In 1992, Paul was awarded the Robins Bowl of Hygea.

Raymond Ainscough graduated from the same university as his parents and his grandfather and became a pharmacist in 1992. He too practises in Drumheller.



clockwise from top left: Aaron Mann, Patricia Mann Ainscough, Raymond Ainscough, Paul Ainscough.

**The Maybank Family.** Matthew R. Maybank arrived in Innisfail from London Ont. in 1902, to apprentice with Mr. Geary. In 1905 he obtained his North West Territories certificate then joined with Arthur Creighton to launch the Olds Drug Co, in 1906 which became the Maybank Drug in 1910.

Mr. Maybank served the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association as a councillor, its president and for many years as its Registrar-Treasurer.



l to r: Don Cameron, Mervyn J. Huston, Ralph E. Maybank, Gerry B. Maybank, Ross Boake (Hon. Capt.), Garth Scott (North West Drug). North West Drug Event Curling Winners.

Ralph E. Maybank apprenticed with his father from 1930 to 1932 then graduated from U.of A. with his B.Sc. in pharmacy in 1935. Father and son were both keen sportsmen and Ralph became a very good hockey player. Ralph has spent virtually all his pharmacy career in the family pharmacy at Olds. He too served his fellow pharmacists on several committees, as a councillor and as president.

Gerald B. Maybank made it three generations of Maybank pharmacists when he too became qualified at the U.of A. As well, his wife Lorraine is a pharmacist. Both worked in the Maybank Pharmacy of which Gerry became owner. The business recently changed hands ending 84 years of service to Olds and district by one family.

**The McKechnie Family.** Hiram McKechnie operated a pharmacy in Quyon Quebec from 1902 to 1907 before graduating in pharmacy from the Manitoba College of Pharmacy. He came to Camrose in 1907 where he dispensed for three years before becoming a travelling representative for Martin,Bole and Wynne. The firm Drugs Limited grew out of this with Mr. Wynne and Hiram working closely together until they were bought out by National Drug. Hiram



A. W. "Red" McKechnie,  
June, 1962.

McKechnie returned to retail pharmacy in Strathmore in 1923 and this time he had the help of his son.

Archibald Wright McKechnie was known to all by his nick-name, "Red", due to the color of his hair. He apprenticed with Wendell MacLean and with Liggett-Findlay Drug, both of Calgary and with Harmony Drug in Banff then graduated from U. of A. in pharmacy in 1923. His retail career saw him in several Alberta towns including Ponoka, Strathmore, Barons, Picture Butte then finally Calgary. He was an excellent preceptor and salesman say his former employees. In various locations he was a Rotarian, Kiwanian and a Shriner and was a president of the Calgary and District Retail Druggists Association.

Archie McKechnie was the third in this family to become a pharmacist. He served part of his apprenticeship with his father and part with Cec Henderson at Douglass Drug in Calgary then graduated from U. of A. in pharmacy. He then, with partner Reuben Hashman, had Northmount Drug in Calgary. In 1962 Archie opened the first drug store in Sundre, a town and district which he loved and for which he was an active booster. Archie McKechnie died unexpectedly in 1990 at age 57 years.



Joel Stiles holding future pharmacist John Stiles.



Bill and Alberta Stiles with John.

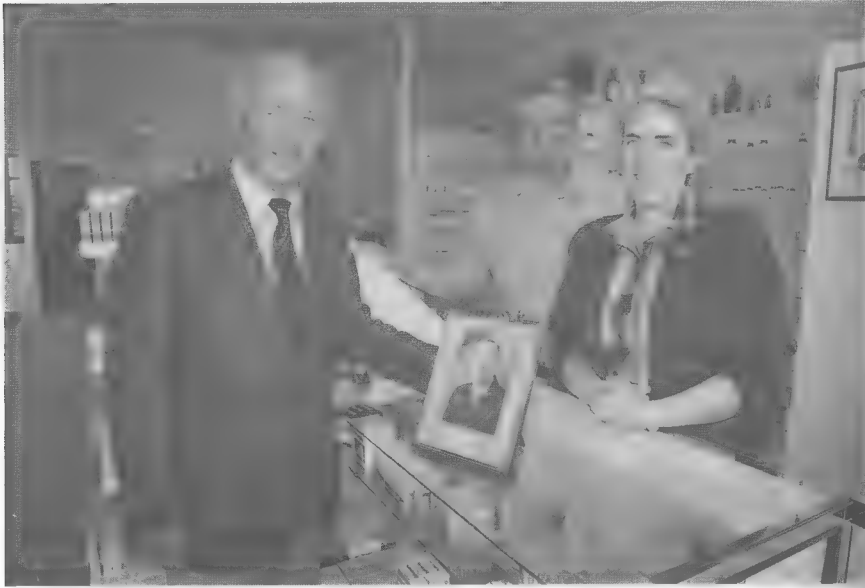
**The Stiles Family.** Joel Herbert Stiles began his apprenticeship with Annie Simpson in Innisfail in 1904. He wrote his exams in Calgary under examiner Owen H. Bott in 1908 and obtained his N.W.T. certificate. When the A.Ph.A. was formed in 1911 Joel was given licence 94. He opened his own pharmacy in Bassano 30 Oct.1909. The telephone exchange was in the drug store. Joel married the operator, May Thompson, and they had eight children, one of which was Bill.

William Joel Stiles began working for his father before the second World War performing the usual after school jobs. He graduated from the U.of A. in pharmacy in 1954. His father died in 1957, active to the end. Bill, with his brother Ted, purchased the business and named it Stiles The Druggist.

John Stiles became the third pharmacist in this direct line from grandfather, to son to grandson. He is presently having a very successful career with the Super Drug Mart group based in Calgary.

There were and are still more Stile pharmacists! Edgar Stiles, nephew of Joel, helped run branch stores in Duchess and Hussar and Jenner. Ed had also apprenticed at Bassano with his uncle following the first World War. He later had his own pharmacy at Viking. Ed's son Pat Stiles also became a pharmacist.

Norman Stiles was another son of Joel and was not a pharmacist but his daughter Penny became a pharmacist. This seems to make six pharmacists in all. Perhaps the store name should have been "Stiles the Druggists. Bill Stiles was proud that the Stiles family operated their pharmacy for 76 years and said that it was "the Best in the West by a Dam Site".



l to r: Jack E. Stokes, Joe Schipper, Frances (Stokes) Schipper, with photo of Ernest Ball Stokes.

**The Stokes Family.** Ernest Ball Stokes was a 1903 graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. He obtained his N.W.T. licence in 1906 and his A.Ph.A. licence in 1919. He chose to practise in Lethbridge and bought out the Kenny and Allin Co. drug store.

Jack Ernest Stokes graduated from the University of Alberta and obtained his licence in 1940. He immediately took over the pharmacy from his father and operated the Stokes Drug Co. Ltd. (The Drug-Book Store). He later also had the Royal Drug in Lethbridge. Jack is a keen historian and helped supply much information to the writers of this book. The Kiwanis Club has had Jack as an enthusiastic member for many years.

Frances Stokes Schipper worked with her father at Stokes Drug Co. until it closed in 1980. She dispensed elsewhere including some time with a Safeway Pharmacy and now is manager of the Stokes Dispensary Ltd. in Lethbridge.

**The Switzer Family.** Harvey Alexander Switzer was born June 8 1889 in Grey County Ontario, graduated from O.C.P. in 1910, came west and registered with the N.W.T. Ph. Assn. in the same year. Mr. Switzer was a real pioneer of the Edson district when Jasper was called Fitzhugh and Hinton was called Bliss Gravel Pit. He opened a drug store in Edson Jan. 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Switzer had 14 children.



Harvey A. Switzer, 1910.



William A. Switzer.



John F. Switzer.



Daniel P. Switzer.



Connie Switzer.



Harold A. Switzer.



William A. Switzer had a remarkable military career which is described in Chapter 13. He graduated from the U.of A. in pharmacy in 1947 and was president of the Pharmacy Club. An active community worker, he became the first mayor of Hinton and was M.L.A. for the Jasper-Hinton area. Switzer Drive in Hinton and the William A. Switzer Provincial Park are named after him.

John F. Switzer, another son of Harvey Switzer, graduated in pharmacy in 1953 and since that time has operated Switzer Drug in Edson.

Daniel Philip Switzer, also a son of Harvey, graduated in pharmacy from U.of A. in 1960 and went to work with John in the family pharmacy at Edson.

Connie Switzer, daughter of John, studied pharmacy as well then returned to the U.of A. to study medicine and is now a Gastroenterologist in Edmonton.

Harold A. Switzer, son of John, has also chosen pharmacy as his career and is manager of the Switzer's Drugs in Edson, working with his father. The Switzer family has certainly been an important part of the development and community life of Edson and district.

## **The Romance Between Pharmacy and Photofinishing**

*by Gordon Berry, John Shipley and Joe Stepa*

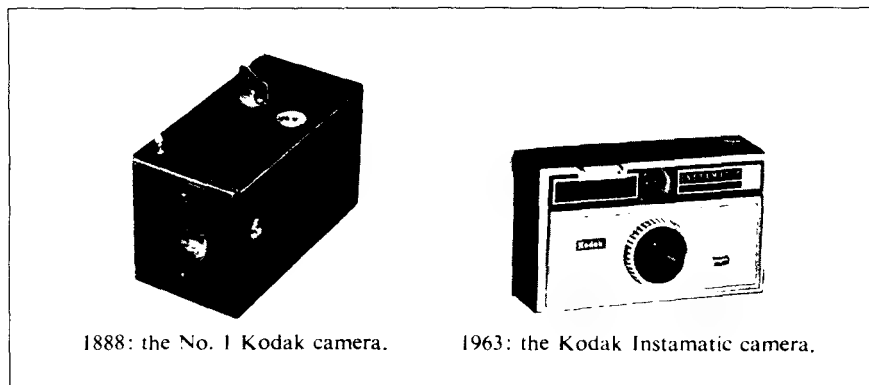
In 1875 the art of photography was about half a century old. It was still a cumbersome chore practised by professionals and a few amateurs who were challenged by the difficulties of making photographs.

About 1877, George Eastman of Rochester, New York became interested in photography and began making photographic emulsions for his own use with materials and information imported from England, then the world centre of photography.

In 1884 George Eastman invented the black and white Roll Film. With his dream of a "complete system of photography" the No. 1 Kodak camera was introduced in 1886. In searching for a distinctive trademark he wanted a word that was short, and easily spelled and pronounced in any language. The letter "k" was a favourite of his, and so trying out many combinations of words beginning and ending with "k" the word "Kodak" was the result.

The No. 1 Kodak Camera was placed on the market. It sold for \$25 loaded with 100 exposure film and was now in the hands of the average citizen. The one drawback was that it had to be sent back to Rochester for developing and printing, and returned to the customer with a new roll in the camera - "the birth of the so-called free film concept".

In 1891 Kodak started to market the first day-light loading camera and roll film, followed by the Pocket Kodak Camera in 1895, and the famous BROWNIE CAMERA introduced in 1900. This camera was priced at \$1 and the film came in at a super price of 15 cents. In 1902 when equipment and chemistry was



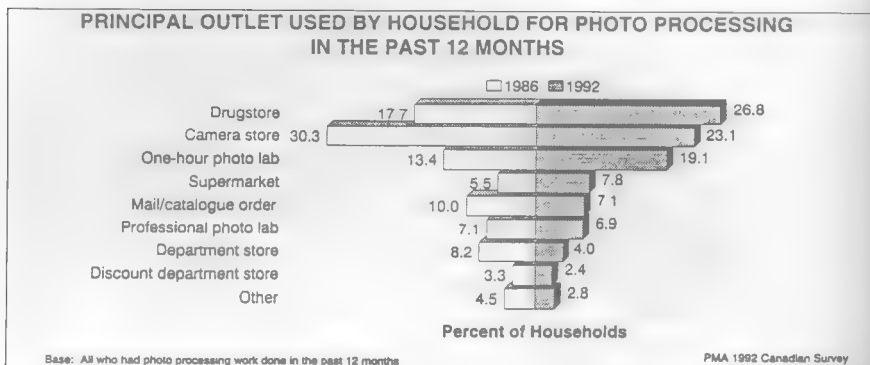
available – the romance between pharmacy and photofinishing was born.

Distribution! How to get picture taking readily to the average citizen? With the growth of drug stores throughout the land, George Eastman could see a natural outlet for his photo products. With film and cameras on the shelf and a film developing service in the back of the store by a knowledgeable pharmacist who knew chemistry, photofinishing was now born. Service to the customer was available 7 days a week, almost 365 days a year.

It is interesting to note that one of the first Kodak Drug Store Dealers in the west was Scott's Drug Store in Cranbrook, B.C.. The original Kodak Gold Leaf sign from this store now graces the front window of the Gledhill's Drug Store in Heritage Park, Calgary.

Another drug store that deserves mention is McDermid Drugs of Calgary formerly located on 8th Avenue W., where K. B. McDermid operated a very successful camera store and photofinishing service. The photo department was run by Cecil Landymore and Jack Fair. It was started in 1914 and provided quality black and white film developing until July 2, 1946 when a young aspiring photographer by the name of John W. Shipley purchased the business from McDermid. He added new modern equipment and started Shipley Photo Service in Calgary. It should be noted that McDermid Drugs photofinishing quality made a name for itself when ex-service personnel from Australia and England continued to send their films for developing when they returned to their homeland after the war. Even Warner Bros. from Hollywood sent a letter to McDermids wanting to know the formula that was being used to produce such high quality black and white pictures.

The era of Film Developing now started to shift rapidly to larger and centralized photofinishing labs with a dealer network of drug stores acting as film drop off outlets with pick up and delivery service. NOW THE MARRIAGE WAS CONSUMMATED.



The distribution of Kodak film and photographic supplies expanded rapidly after the second world war and the drug store became the natural link between supplier and the customer. Just ask any old time pharmacist and he will tell you that to own a Kodak Dealership was a very important part of running his business. One cannot forget the weekly visits throughout the province by Gordon T. Berry who arrived from Toronto to become Alberta's favourite Kodak Representative. His trade mark was his Stetson hat he wore during his travels. The relationship between Kodak and the individual drug store lasted for many years.

Some of the stores that came to mind which did a superb job in supplying the photo needs to the customer were such names as Gaetz-Cornett in Red Deer, Harmony Drugs in Banff, Hills Drugs in Fort McMurray, Armstrong Drugs and Rudolf Pharmacy in Edmonton, McDermid Drugs in Calgary, Thorp's Drug and Photo in Wainwright and Provost where Don Bethune managed the photography department.

During the early 1900's a small black and white photofinishing lab was being operated in Edmonton in the same building where Armstrong Drugs was located and operated by R. A. Aitchison. In March 1953, Nick Ochotta and Ross McBain purchased the equipment from Aitchison and started Film Services (Alberta) Ltd.. Now the slogan "Your Film Deserves Superior Finishing" was born. Joe Stepa joined the firm in 1958 and with the introduction of Kodacolor film and color processing to the Canadian market, business grew rapidly. The drug store dealer network was now a major player in supplying fast and quality film developing to the many customers. Shipley Photo Service from Calgary set up a branch operation in Edmonton with Roy Faltinson as partner. King Size Photo from Regina moved in on the scene with Jack Rees as manager. Mortiffee-Munshaw of Vancouver operated a branch in Calgary. West Canadian Color with headquarters in Calgary was managed by Don Thurlow. Jack Abel Photo Service from Toronto opened a



l to r: Cliff Irwin, Jimmie Clarke,  
Ed Kadlec, Len Slipp.  
snapped by John Shipley.

branch in Calgary to service the Tamblyn Drug Store chain.

In 1962 Northwest Color Labs was organized in Edmonton to service the high volume in color processing. In 1987 Colortron Photo Services from Hamilton purchased Northwest Color Labs.

Today only Colortron Photo Service, West Canadian Color and Western Professional remain on the scene as wholesale photofinishers in the Alberta market place servicing the needs of the drug stores.

And so from many small hand operated establishments processing black and while rolls for 15 cents, the industry blossomed into a multi-million dollar operation. Dollar volumes generated by the vast number of drug stores throughout the province each averaged between \$500 to \$10,000 per month. High speed electronic equipment was being used to give fast and quality color pictures at an affordable cost. A 24 exposure roll of Kodacolor film was developed and printed very reasonably.

One interesting fact that deserves mention is the personal relationship between the drug store and the photofinisher. During the annual Pharmacy Conferences held at various locations, it was customary for the finisher to offer his services for the success of the Convention. John Shipley began the custom of taking pictures of the activities, and every conventionaire went home with a free photo. Joe Stepa of Film Services did his part in the Edmonton area.

And so in 1977, during the conference held in Jasper, Alberta at the famous Jasper Park Lodge, the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association honoured John Shipley and Joe Stepa by presenting them with the first non-graduate Honorary Membership to the Association.

Today we have come full circle. In the 1930's and 40's films were developed behind the dispensary, or by a few hand operated small black and white labs.



l to r: Joe Stepa and  
John Shipley.

As the volume grew and the process became more complex, centralized plants with larger equipment came on the scene, and the drug store became the drop off depot for film. The scene changed with the introduction of the One-hour labs, and the formation of the drug store chains, the building of larger stores and the formation of buying groups. Many large stores are now processing color film back in their own premises.

Now only huge wholesale labs are left to service the stores that still require it. But the Romance Between Photofinishing and Pharmacy continues. It still remains very strong despite the many recent changes that have occurred in the market place. Historically, the drug stores have controlled about 24% of the film sales in North America over the last twenty-five years accompanied by processing 28% of the available film at the same time.

Market studies and surveys do not clearly indicate the reasons for this solidarity. However, they do seem to indicate that the stability and convenience factors embodied in the neighbourhood pharmacies have had a substantial bearing in helping to maintain these volume figures.

What about the future? With the introduction of "video" will the market place change? Will photographic film as we know it today slowly die out? When will the marriage between film and video take place? Perhaps it is here already. Excellent hard copy prints are being made today from video tape. Computer enhanced photographs are being produced, but the price is still very high for the consumer.

But so far the Romance Between Pharmacy and Photofinishing continues. Do we want to be part of it? Here is our up to date story.

*Thanks is extended for the contributions to this section made by Nick Ochotta.*

# Military History of Alberta Pharmacists

by W. L. Boddy

*Editor's note: It is customary to list those individuals who served their country during wartime by placing their names on an "Honour Role". We too have attempted to list all known active pharmacist Servicemen from World War I and II and apologise to any we may have missed. In addition we have enlarged upon this subject by providing a short summary of their service records which were obtained from the biographies sent to us, or learned by us during interviews.*

**V. (Laudie) Adamic.** Laudie apprenticed with Keith French at Calmar Drug Store in 1940. In the early forties he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force (R.C.A.F.) as aircrew. He was killed during overseas service. Laudie and Walt Boddy met frequently while apprenticing, he at Calmar and Boddy at Thorsby Drug. Adamic was paid \$10.00 per week while Boddy was only being paid \$6.00 per week.

**Richard H. Appleyard.** Dick Appleyard obtained his degree in pharmacy 1942. He was killed overseas.

**Walter Boddy.** While apprenticing (2 years) with Mr. Joe Ruzicka at Thorsby Drug he joined the 1st Canadian Survey Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery in October 1940 and went overseas in December 1940. He trained as an Artillery Surveyor and spent the balance of the war in the Sound Ranging Battery. Their task was to locate German Artillery guns by sound. He spent three years training in England, finally sent to Algiers, North Africa in October 1943. Christmas 1943 was spent in Sicily. In February 1944 he saw action at Ortona, Italy. In May 1944 he was in action at Cassino. Later in 1944 he was on the Po Valley when the regiment was pulled out of Italy. They were shipped to Marseille in the South of France. Then to Belgium and back into action in Holland until the end of the war in May 1945.

After 4 years and ten months he arrived back home in October 1945. People would ask, "what was it like?" He would answer: "for starters, try not sleeping in a bed for a year and a half!"

**R.W. Bailie.** Bob served with the 8th Canadian Field Ambulance militia as a small arms instructor.

**R.L. Beech.** R.L.Beech was a prisoner of war in W.W.II.

**Lawrence Calvin Blain.** He joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942 and served 42 months until discharged.

**Thomas Blair.** Served as a dispenser in a Field Ambulance, R.C.A.M.C. from 1939 until 1945.

**Gordon Buchwald.** Gordon served as an L.A.C. in the R.C.A.F. and was transferred to the R.A.F. in England.

**William Buckley.** Pharmacist of Canmore and Calgary, Bill was in the R.C.A.F. for two years.

**Clayton G. Butchard.** Edmonton pharmacist Butchard served with the Princess Patricia Canadian Light Infantry in W.W.I and was wounded.

**Donald M. Cameron.** Donald M. Cameron joined the Royal Canadian Air Force on October 20, 1941 upon the completion of three years of registered internship in pharmacy.

Upon entry Donald attended Manning Pool in Toronto and in December was enrolled in a course at the University of Toronto in the new science of Radar. Upon completion of his university course he went to Clinton, Ontario (the Radar school) for 6 weeks.

Following embarkation leave Donald proceeded overseas in June of 1942. He was stationed, at first, in Northern Ireland and then on the west coast of England with Coastal Command. From this posting he was recommended for a commission and following a sixteen week course in Southern England was made a Pilot Officer in October, 1943. He subsequently served with Night Fighter squadrons in Scotland and England. Following this he was posted to Southern England to the main diversion airdrome for West England. Here he and his section of 20 W.A.A.F.'s and airmen serviced every sort of British and American Planes. He also supervised the W.A.A.F.'s and airmen at a satellite

base 5 miles away. He commuted by bus two days a week. During his career Donald accumulated about 60 hours of flying time.

The chief job was training troops for Horsa gliders to be towed behind Halifax and Sterling bombers. He recalls with some sorrow seeing 64 gliders being towed to the relief of Arnhem, Holland. Of the 64 planes 4 returned to base. The Bombers went in and loosed the gliders at a height of 200 feet. Many bombers made it back to other English bases; several went down in the English Channel and several more crashed and their crews will only be seen again at the other side of eternity.

Donald spent the last months of the war in Yorkshire, the take off site of so many 1000 bomber raids.

He was discharged as a Flying Officer in 1945 by which time he was enroled in pharmacy commencing (a little late) on October 16, 1945.

**Bob Charman.** On a bombing raid against the V2 Rocket site of Peenemunda his Halifax was shot down. He was a P.O.W. from 1943 until the Soviets liberated him in 1945.

**F/L Walter Chorney, D.F.C. J92831.** Walter was born on October 27, 1915 in Edmonton. His parents were Nicholas and Mary (Malisky) Chorney who immigrated to Canada separately in 1906 and 1910 respectively from western Ukraine.

Walter joined the R.C.A.F. in March 1941 and graduated as Navigator with the rank of Flight Sergeant. He joined the Advanced Flying Unit and transferred to the Royal Air Force, Squadron #9 in England. This squadron was a special unit destined for extremely hazardous duties. Their heroic job was to fly over important enemy targets in Germany, such as the V-2 launching sites at Peenemunde, dropping huge "block buster" bombs as well as "armour piercing" bombs.

During one of their raids to bomb the German Battleship "Turpitz", their bomber crashed in Russia, north of the Arctic Circle. A Russian guide was parachuted down to help the crew find their way to friendly territory. Unfortunately, the Russian guide was hopelessly lost, so Walter with his training as a navigator took over the leadership and guided the crew back to safety. For this and other deeds, Walter received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After Walter's first "tour" of thirty missions, he volunteered for a second tour. He saw duty in England, Belgium, Holland, Norway, France, Germany and Russia. He volunteered for Pacific Service; but upon arriving in Canada and while passing through Saskatoon, Japan capitulated. He received his discharge in September, 1945.



Walter earned the following Military Awards: Distinguished Flying Cross, 1939-45 Star, Canadian Volunteer Medal with Clasp, Defense Medal, Air Crew Europe Star, Air Force Wings, and the Bomber Command Medal.

Walter joined Norwood Legion Branch #178 in 1953 and has served in several executive and officer capacities. He was President in 1983, 1984 and 1985. He has earned the following Legion Awards: Certificate of Merit in 1979, Past President Medal and the Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Albert Frank "Bert" Coffin.** Bert joined the army in 1940. He served with the South Alberta Regiment in Canada, England and North West Europe, as a Lieutenant, Captain and Major. He became Lieut. Col. of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada and served in North West Europe.

He commanded the Canadian Berlin Battalion which was a composite Battalion drawn from the Argyll and Sutherland H. of C, the Loyal Edmonton Regiment and the Fusiliers de Montreal. This battalion was led by Lt.Col.Coffin in the Victory parade in Berlin. Bert was awarded the D.S.O. (Distinguished Service Order).

After the war Bert was, for a time, the pharmacist at the Col. Belcher Hospital in Calgary, then had a career with the Charles E. Frosst Co.

**Jack E. Corbett.** Jack served in the R.C.A.F. as a laboratory technician and dispenser.

**Arnold Cowan.** After graduating in pharmacy in 1938 Arnold worked in and around Calgary until 1942 when he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force. He had been attempting to join the Air Force as an air crew member from the start of World War II but at the age of 29 was told he was too old. However, at the age of 32 he was told he would be accepted so he enlisted. Arnold trained as an Air Navigator in England. He and four other Canadians and two Englishmen formed a Lancaster crew. They were posted to an R.A.F. station designated as number 1 Group and number 12 Squadron. They completed 32 trips over Holland, Belgium, France and Germany. Seventeen were night flights and fifteen were day flights. After this he was "screened" and sent back to Canada.

On February 10, 1946 he became the Edmonton representative for John Wyeth and Bro. (Canada) Ltd.

**Thomas Roy Cornett.** Early in 1941 Tom joined the Calgary Regiment Tanks in Red Deer. On August 19, 1942 the Regiment was involved in the Dieppe Raid on the French coast. Tom was taken P.O.W. (Prisoner of War). He spent 32 months as a P.O.W. at Aichstad, 20 miles north of Munich. Tom and a

Scottish pharmacist prisoner dispensed medicines at the camp hospital. The Germans had very little drug stock for them to dispense. Another pharmacist, Jack Dunlap, of Stettler, was held at the same camp. After 5-1/2 years in the Army Tom took his discharge and returned to pharmacy in Red Deer.

**Drummond John Cotterill.** Drummond served as a gunner in the 44th Battery of the 13th Canadian Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. He served in the United Kingdom and Northwest Europe.

**Peter Coyle.** Peter served in the R.C.A.F. Coastal command in Canada, the United Kingdom and the Mediterranean. He returned to manage, then own MacMillan Drug, Calgary.

Peter still flies for pleasure and has retained his commercial pilot's licence.

**Frank L. Crawford.** Frank enlisted in the 17th Field Ambulance R.C.A.M.C. in early 1940. He entered the army as a sergeant and worked as a pharmacist dispenser. He went overseas with the 6th Canadian General Hospital and was stationed at Bramshot, England.

At the end of the war he was discharged in Vancouver, B.C. where he operated Crawford's Pharmacy.

**Harry Creech.** While with the army during W.W.I, Creech suffered a head wound and thereafter wore a metal plate in his skull. Post war he had a drug store in Calgary.

**George Crooks.** Served 1914 to 1918 in R.C.A.S.C. in France and Belgium. Later practised in Sedgewick and Calgary.

**J. R. Darling.** Enlisted from Edmonton and was wounded in W.W.I. Returned to Calgary.

**J. D. (Jack) Dunlap.** Graduated from the University of Alberta in pharmacy. He joined the Calgary Regiment Tanks. On August 19th, 1942, his regiment was in the Dieppe Raid on France. He was taken P.O.W. and spent the next 32 months in a Prisoner of War Camp in Germany.

He returned to Alberta at war's end and worked as a pharmacist at Corner Drug, 102 Street and Jasper Avenue and later at Banff, Alberta where he retired.

**Ian Ellis.** Ian was a dispenser in the R.C.A.M.C., at Wetaskiwin Military Hospital and elsewhere.

**George A. England.** Graduate of the U. of A. in 1938. Pharmacist with Dick Drug in Drumheller.

George was killed in Sicily during W.W. II.

**Albert H. Erswell – World War I & II.** Bert Erswell served for three years in World War I as a dresser and also involved with supplies. He returned to Alberta and graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1920.

In 1940 he joined the Medical Corps as Sergeant then Sergeant-Major. He was commissioned in June 1942. He then became hospital quarter master at a P.O.W. camp at Ozata. In May 1943 he was sent to England. In 1944 he was sent to Belgium. He left the army in March 1947.

**Noel Adair Farrow – World War I.** In 1915 he joined the Army first in the Medical Corps then the 10th Battalion Canadian Army Infantry from Calgary. He joined as a Private and rose to Captain. He was wounded twice.

During the Second World War Noel served on the Committee on the Status of Pharmacists in the Armed Services. After the war all pharmacists in the services held commissioned ranks due in part to the efforts of Noel Farrow.

**E. Gladstone Grant – World War I.** Mr. Grant served in the R.F.C. (Royal Flying Corps). He had a close call when a bullet passed through his groin and left through a buttock.

He returned to apprentice with J.W. Somers at Wetaskiwin then later owned and operated his own pharmacy in Calgary for many years.

**Oswald F. Geehan.** He obtained his B.Sc. in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1944. He then joined the Navy and served in Halifax until the end of war. While in the navy, Ozzie won the all services boxing title for his weight class.

After the war Ozzie operated his own pharmacies then joined the R.C.A.F. as a pharmacist and served in Montreal, Goose Bay, Ottawa and Germany, retiring to Calgary where he resumed a civilian career.

**Lawrence Gillott.** This Lethbridge pharmacist served in an Anti Tank Regiment.

**John F. Grey.** This Pincher Creek pharmacist served in the Cavalry, W.W.I. and became a Prisoner of War.

**Fred Halliday – Calgary – World War I.** Served in the Royal Flying Corps in 1918.

**John Bruce Hedderick.** Joined the army as staff sergeant in the R.C.A.M.C. In 1943 he helped open the military hospital in Medicine Hat within the P.O.W. camp and remained to operate it attaining the rank of Captain. He returned to "Civvy Street" in 1945, and resumed his long career with the Hudson Bay Co. Still later while doing locums, he became the oldest practising pharmacist in Alberta.

**G. A. Cecil Henderson.** Cec. joined the R.C.A.F. and served for 3-1/2 years. After the war he graduated in pharmacy from the Ontario College of Pharmacy then practised in Calgary.

**Gordon Henker.** Gordon spent 5 years and 9 days in the armed forces. He served in the First Canadian Army Tank Brigade, R.C.A.S.C. and after a time in England saw action in Italy, France, Belgium and Holland then after the war, in Germany.

**Evert (Hermie) Hermanson, D.F.C., C.D., B.S.P..** Hermie enlisted in the R.C.A.F. in April 1941 and graduated as a pilot in December 1941. He went overseas in January 1942 and was a flying instructor for the R.A.F. until joining 409 R.C.A.F. Night Fighter Squadron in October 1944, flying Mosquito Night Fighters. The Mosquito, nicknamed the "Mossie" was an outstanding aircraft as it would take a lot of damage from enemy fire even though it was built almost entirely of wood and glue.

He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross when one night he and his Navigator shot down three enemy aircraft in 45 minutes.

In the early 1950's Hermie rejoined the R.C.A.F. and did a tour in Korea, flying CF100 jets. Returning to civilian life, Hermie worked in Calgary for Morrison Drug then the Col. Belcher Military Hospital.

**E.C. Higginbotham.** This Calgary pharmacist served in World War I.

**Ben S. Higgs.** Served in the army from 1942 to 1945. He was a flying observation spotter for the artillery in Italy. He was shot down and very badly wounded.

**Walter M. Hill – World War I.** Walter joined the Canadian Army in January, 1916. He served in France and Belgium and the occupation forces in Germany until the Spring of 1919.

On his return to Canada he went north to Fort McMurray for a temporary post and stayed for 50 years.

**Grant Hinman.** In 1942 Grant joined the R.C.A.F. and graduated as a navigator in 1943. He completed a 39 tour mission with the #78 R.A.F. Squadron and was awarded the D.F.C.

He returned Cardston in December, 1944.

**E. W. "Pudge" Hodgins.** Served as a Captain in charge of Medical Stores in Calgary, W.W.II.

**Roy Holding.** Roy served in the R.C.A.F. and R.A.F. as a navigator on Lancaster bombers and was awarded the D.F.C. and C.D. Post war he served as a pharmacist with the armed forces.

**Jack Humphreys.** In 1943 Jack joined the R.C.A.F. and graduated as a pilot. He served in India in South East Asia command.

Jack completed a tour of duty in 1945.

**Cliff Irwin.** After several sorties with the R.C.A.F., Cliff was sent on leave. He returned one day early and learned his flight was about to leave on a mission over Germany. Although entitled to one more day of leave, he requested permission and was allowed to suit up and board the aircraft. The plane was shot down and Cliff spent the next few years in a P.O.W. camp.

**Percy R. Jeffrey.** Percy joined the P.P.C.L.I. in World War One. He transferred to the Medical Corps, served in a military hospital at Orpington, England then was a Sergeant with the 14 Canadian Field Ambulance. He was gassed and wounded. Post war he had his own pharmacies in Calgary.

**Cliff King.** Served in the R.C.A.F. in Canada with the rank of Pilot Officer. After discharge he owned and operated a pharmacy in Vegreville for many years.

**Fred King.** Fred was turned down for some medical reason when he tried to enlist. He had the disorder medically repaired, joined the R.C.A.F. and flew many missions over the "Burma Hump". He operated the King Drug chain in Calgary.

**Trooper William George Lesick.** Bill was born on June 10, 1923 at Spedden, Alberta. He is the eldest son of the late William Alexander and Emily (Syrotuck) Lesick. His father immigrated to Canada in 1911 from the Ukraine and his mother was born in Port Haney, B.C..

Bill enlisted in the Canadian Army in 1942 and joined the 31st Alberta Reconnaissance Regiment. On going overseas to England he was transferred to the IV Princess Louise Dragoon Guards, which was also a reconnaissance

unit. Joining the First Division, he saw action in Northern France, Belgium and Holland.

In March 1946, Bill was honourably discharged from the army. He earned the Canadian Volunteer Service Medal and Clasp, the France-Germany Star, and the 1939-45 War Medal.

He joined the Royal Canadian Legion in 1947 and served on many committees. He was honoured as Life Member of the Norwood Branch in 1983 and awarded the Certificate of Merit, as well the Legion Diamond Jubilee Medal.

**Samuel Alexander Logan.** Better known as "Scotty" Logan, perhaps because he was born in Scotland, he emigrated to Edmonton with his family in 1923. Scottie served with the R.C.A.F. from 1940 until 1945, in several stations in England, Scotland and the Hebrides.

He graduated from U. of A. in 1949, practised in Calgary then operated Hooper's Drug and owned Parkdale Pharmacy in Edmonton. His daughter Kerry Logan Smith is also a pharmacist.

**Fred C. Long.** This Vermilion pharmacist joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in 1915.

**Aaron Mann.** Joined the Navy in May 1942 as an Engine Room Artificer (He was a recently graduated pharmacist). He was later transferred to H.M.C.S. Star in Hamilton as a Sick Berth Attendant.

In February 1943 he was sent to Halifax where he served in the pharmacy of the Royal Canadian Naval Hospital. Aaron married in Halifax and their daughter Patricia was born in the Infirmary in Halifax.

On January 15, 1946 he received his discharge.

**W. C. Masters Jr.** After graduation in 1943, Bill joined the Royal Canadian Navy and served as a Lieutenant on Atlantic service.

**Horace Mawson.** Horace joined the R.C.A.F. when the war was declared and became a Navigator. He experienced many sorties over France and Germany.

**R. G. "Jerry" McIntyre.** Now a pharmacist of Nanton, Jerry joined the R.C.A.M.C., served at Suffield, Currie Barracks Calgary, Camrose, Nanaimo, Lethbridge and with the King's Own Calgary Regiment.

**A. Wright "Red" McKechnie – World War 1.** While under age he joined the Royal Flying Corp and his father got him out. At age 19 he rejoined the R.F.C.. Post war he became a pharmacist.

**John Terrance McLaughlin.** Terry McLaughlin was born in Mannville AB. He joined the R.C.A.F. in Edmonton in 1940 then was trained and served as a Rear Gunner in the 426 Thunderbird Airborne Squadron. As a Rear Gunner on Wellington and Lancaster bombers, he flew a full tour of duty. He then became a gunnery instructor. Later he returned to flying until the end of war. Returning to Canada with his war bride Pat, he graduated in pharmacy 1950, then had Bellevue Pharmacy in Edmonton and later purchased the Canmore Pharmacy in Canmore.

**Stan Miller.** Stan spent 2 years in the Army in World War II mostly as a Small Arms Instructor.

He then served from 1948-49 as a "Machal" Volunteer in the Israel Army primarily in the Galil with the 79th Battalion. Stan was the recipient of the 1984 Niger Dinner Award in Edmonton, November 4, 1984.

He operated a pharmacy in West Edmonton on the corner of 156 Street and Stony Plain Road for many years.

**Archie Noble.** Archie purchased a drug store from V.E. Hessell in Okotoks in 1940. Later in 1940 Archie joined the R.C.A.F. Six months later he was killed in a plane crash near Montreal while acting as a flying instructor.

**William Henry (Bill) O'Dell.** Joined the R.C.A.F. in September, 1941 as a radar mechanic. He went overseas in August, 1942. He was commissioned in 1943 as an equipment officer and spent the rest of the war with a Spitfire Squadron of the 2nd Tactical Air Force, R.A.F. He served in the United Kingdom, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany.

He was discharged in 1946 and returned to pharmacy in Wetaskiwin.

**Ken Penley.** In 1943 Ken graduated in pharmacy then joined the army. After several postings in Calgary he was sent to the Wetaskiwin Military Hospital as Sergeant- Dispenser.

In December, 1944, Ken was sent overseas to an N.C.O. infantry training course at Aldershot. He was then transferred to an Air Ambulance unit. Ken was later sent to replace the pharmacist in the 18th Field Ambulance in Varel, Germany. He returned to Calgary in 1945.

**Howard Pickup.** Graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in May, 1940, as a Gold Medallist. He served in the reserve army with the Calgary Highlanders from 1939-1941. In 1942 he joined the R.C.A.M.C. (Royal Canadian Army Medical Corp) and went overseas with the 11th Canadian General Hospital Unit. Later he became chief pharmacist for the No.18 Canadian

General Hospital, a 600 bed unit. He served with No. 18 from 1943 to 1945. At war's end he was an inspecting officer for Army Medical Directorate at Canadian Military Headquarters in London.

**William Poohkay.** Joined the R.C.A.F. in 1941, in Edmonton.

Bill's first raid over Germany was July 1, 1943. He had 37 Bombing raids over occupied Europe. He was shot down over France when his Halifax Bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire on route to Luxembourg on June 18, 1944. He lived off the land while travelling east toward Switzerland. Using his schoolboy French, he finally contacted the French underground resistance fighters, the "Maquis". Living in the Ardennes Forest in Northeast France, he helped the Maquis to blow up railroads, bridges and canals and cut telephone lines to delay Nazi troops and war supplies moving West to meet invading Canadian and Allied troops. Allied troops liberated Northeast France in September 1944. Bill was flown to Britain where he was interrogated by MI-9, the British Intelligence Branch for escape and evasion.

Bill was discharged from the R.C.A.F. in early 1945 and entered the University of Alberta School of Pharmacy.

**William Rathbone.** This English pharmacist joined the R.A.F. and part of his training was with the Commonwealth Air Training Plan in Alberta. Bill was a Flight Officer on Mosquito 12's and 30's in Europe then D.C.3's in East India. He requested his discharge in Calgary, dispensed for E. C. Higginbotham then became a representative and later sales manager for British Drug Houses.

**Gordon Philip Retallack.** Gordon served in the R.C.A.F. 419 Squadron, 6 Group from 1942-1946. He was a Flight Lieutenant Bomber Pilot on Lancasters. He served one tour of operations over Germany.

**James Rhynes.** Served in the army World War One. After discharge he worked as a pharmacist for the D.V.A. for several years at the Col. Belcher Military Hospital in Calgary.

**Clayton Harvey Richardson.** Clay served in the R.C.N.V.R. on Canadian Service from 1944 to 1946.

**Bernard Ewald Riedel.** Served in the R.C.A.F. from 1943-1946. Aircrew Coastal Command in Britain – rank Flying Officer. R.C.A.F. Primary Reserve – Commanding Officer, U of A Squadron 1954-67 with the rank of Wing Commander.



**Laurier Andrew Scollon.** In October, 1940, Andy joined the R.C.A.F. in Calgary. He served at the C.F.T.S. as Corporal and the Sergeant from 1941 to 1944 at High River. He went overseas in 1944 and served with 6 Group in England.

He was discharged on December 19, 1945 in Calgary.

**John Shipley.** John served Canada as a R.C.A.F. Flying Officer and Instructor in Instrument and Beam Flying. Post war he established Shipley Photo Service in Calgary. He is an Honorary Member of A.Ph.A..

**J. M. Sissons.** Served in the armed forces, enlisting in 1915.

**Ted Skitch.** Ted joined up in 1915 and served overseas until 1918. He later worked at Smith Drug, Edmonton.

**Len Slipp.** Len flew Mosquitos for the R.C.A.F. in World War II.

**Norman Gordon Sproule.** Norman joined the R.C.A.M.C. and trained as an operating room assistant at Camp Borden, Ontario, and later at Debert, Nova Scotia.

He went overseas with the 20th General Hospital to England and then to Northwestern Europe and finally into occupied Germany at Sandy Bush near Wilhelmshaven. He was discharged in Calgary.

**Olaf Edwin Sorenson.** Served as a Flight Sergeant in the R.C.A.F. First in New Brunswick until 1942, then from 1942-1944 on staff at Manning Depot Edmonton and then two years at Northwest Air Command, Edmonton.

**Andrew Stanley.** Andy served for two years as a Private in the Royal Rifles of Canada, 2nd Division.

**Gordon Sweet.** Gordon graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1940. He then joined the R.C.A.M.C. and served with a Canadian General Hospital overseas. After spending six years in the army he was discharged and returned to community pharmacy in Lacombe.

**William A. (Bill) Switzer – World War II.** Bill flew 130 missions over France and Germany and was mentioned in "Dispatches". He was flying a Typhoon Aircraft and strafed Field Marshall Rommel's convoy in France which resulted in Rommel's death. Bill was shot down twice.

Bill graduated from pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1948. He



Bill Switzer seen at right with  
Jack Hull of Fairview and Don  
Cameron 1952

later became an M.L.A. for Jasper-Hinton. The William A. Switzer provincial park is named after him. Switzer Drive in Hinton is also named after him as he was the first Mayor.

**Lt. Col. F.A. Stewart Dunn – World War I.** In 1914 Mr. Dunn enlisted in the No. 1 Field Ambulance C.A.M.C. He transferred to the Infantry and served in France with the 10th Battalion Canadians (Calgary's Fighting Tenth). He was seriously wounded at Hill 70 in August 1917. At this time he was second in Command of "B" Company.

Later he went to the Imperial Adjutants School at Cambridge. He was then appointed to Canadian Educational Services in London involved with Khaki University. He returned to Alberta and joined the University pharmacy staff in September 1919, where he was active with C.O.T.C. and was its commanding officer for many years.

**J. Earl Taylor.** Earl served with the R.C.A.F. then spent several years as a Prisoner Of War in Germany. Post war, Earl graduated in pharmacy, U.of A., in 1949.

**Harper Thornton.** Enlisted as a lab technician at No. 2 Wireless School R.C.A.F. in Calgary. Overseas he was a pharmacy technician at No. 6 Bomber Group, Yorkshire, England. He returned home in July 1946.

**W. H. Upton.** "Billy" Upton of Pincher Creek joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps in W.W.I. He was wounded in action. After the war he practised in Calgary at The MacLean Drug and at the Col. Belcher Military Hospital.

**Charles A. Weston – World War I & II.** Mr. Weston joined the army in 1915. He was shipped to Calgary to the Medical Corp (8th Field Ambulance).

Charlie went to France and saw action at Vimy, Passchendaele, the Somme and the 2nd Battle of Ypres. He transferred to the 12th Field Ambulance and stayed with this unit until the end of the war in November 1918.

After the war the unit went to Belgium where Sgt. Weston went to Khaki University to complete his grade XII. He returned home and entered the University of Alberta in pharmacy.

In World War II he joined as a Warrant Officer Class II in a Casualty Clearing Station. Charlie went to England with this unit. At war's end in 1945 he spend some months in the army of occupation near Wilhemshaven, Germany.

He returned to Calgary and resumed his life in pharmacy on staff at the Col. Belcher Military Hospital.

Others known to have served but for whom we do not have details,include:

**In World War I:** L. W. Bell, W. C. Bryan, A. A. Carmichael, P. W. Cope, T. E. Corbett, W. A. Cory, M. B. Cragg, E. E. Curry, E. Dafoe\*, T. H. Dick, F. M. Duguid, R. Field, H. Gilchrist, G. F. Gray, W. Graydon, J. D. Henderson, W. A. Henry, W. W. Hole, F. J. Lang, W. I. Linton, A. E. Mercer, T. Millward, M. D. Monkman\*, F. Morrison, J. E. McCallum, A. McDermid, W. G. MacKinnon, S. McLuhan, T. E. H. Patteson, C. S. Pingle, S. Roswell, V. Sampson, N. Scott, E. N. Stiles, A. Sutherland, L. Tice, J. Toller, D. M. Torrie, J. L. Waite, R. Young. (\*killed in action)

**In World War II:** W. Acton, J. W. Altilio, A. J. Anderson, D. F. Anderson, E. K. Anderson, V. M. Appelt, V. M. Appleby, A. E. Arnsdorf\*, C. C. Aston, R. E. Austin\*, C. F. Beck, S. Becker, R. L. Beech (POW), C. E. Bloom, C. R. Brocklebank, D. R. Brown, F. U. Brown, J. Brown, C. W. E. Burch, W. J. Burrows, G. A. Busby, J. M. Byers, A. L. Caldwell, A. A. Carmichael, R. A. Chapman, L. G. Chatten, N. D. Cherniawsky, C. H. Clark, F. N. Clifford, C. F. Connelly, A. B. Cooper, W. R. Cornyn, R. J. Crisafio, H. D. Crosman, W. W. Cully, W. A. Cunningham, M. J. Daum, W. G. Dewar, A. Douglas, G. I. Drummond, T. J. Dunningam, D. M. Ellingson, J. H. Ellis, W. Etherington, E. W. Falk, N. A. Fletcher, M. J. S. Ford, H. B. Gaetz, J. R. Gay, S. G. Geldart, J. Gibbs, J. G. Gibeault, D. Gibson, A. J.

Goldberg, C. E. Graham, J. Green, W. E. Green, J. L. Greene, J. M. Hames, C. M. Hamilton, H. T. Haney, H. Hanson, W. A. Henry, B. S. Higgs, W. Hilderman, G. H. Holmes, R. W. Holmes, R. T. Howey, J. A. Hull, W. A. Ilkiw, J. M. James, C. G. Johnson, W. B. Johnston, J. L. Kidney, M. Kondro, A. P. R. Lambert, R. P. L. Lane, E. P. Langridge, J. A. Law, C. F. Layton, R. B. Lee, G. V. Leech, G. H. Lempiere, P. Lesniak, R. W. Link\*, C. G. Martin, R. L. Martin, T. Martin, T. Melnyk, R. C. Menzies, D. E. C. Merner, W. G. Merryfield, B. W. Miller, K. D. Mitchell, J. R. Monilaws, D. T. Morissette, L. W. Morris, J. F. C. Morrison, G. Munro\*, J. R. Murray, G. E. Myers, F. McCallum, A. J. McEwen\*, R. McGregor, W. L. McKinnon, Mac McKinnell, E. M. Narbeske, L. D. New, D. L. Nichol, R. A. Nikiforuk, E. J. Norwick\*, M. J. O'Brien, R. D. O'Neill, D. M. Patrick, G. S. Peppin, C. D. Pollock, W. F. Porter, Keith Pringle, D. Protheroe, A. W. Prunkl, H. J. Pullen, W. Pyrch, C. R. Rankin, R. T. Reeves, C. R. Ritz, J. Rovers, R. W. Roxburgh, M. O. Samwell, D. P. Scratch, W. Seniuk, W. K. Sheenan, P. Shewchuk, L. Simpson, C. J. Sloan, D. A. Smith, C. A. Sneddon, S. R. Soldan, R. A. Steen, J. Stepa, B. H. Stephenson, J. E. Stokes, A. J. Taylor, O. E. Taylor, F. W. Teare, A. F. Thorsley, L. L. Thorsley, L. A. Torrance, J. M. Tucker, J. E. Verbicky, J. E. Vopat, G. C. Walker, J. F. Walker, A. H. Warr, J. W. Warr, C. A. Watts, V. Wellman, J. L. West, J. L. Westcott, R. S. Weston, G. Willoughby, L. P. Winter, P. A. Woodruff, J. T. Wylie. (\*killed in action)

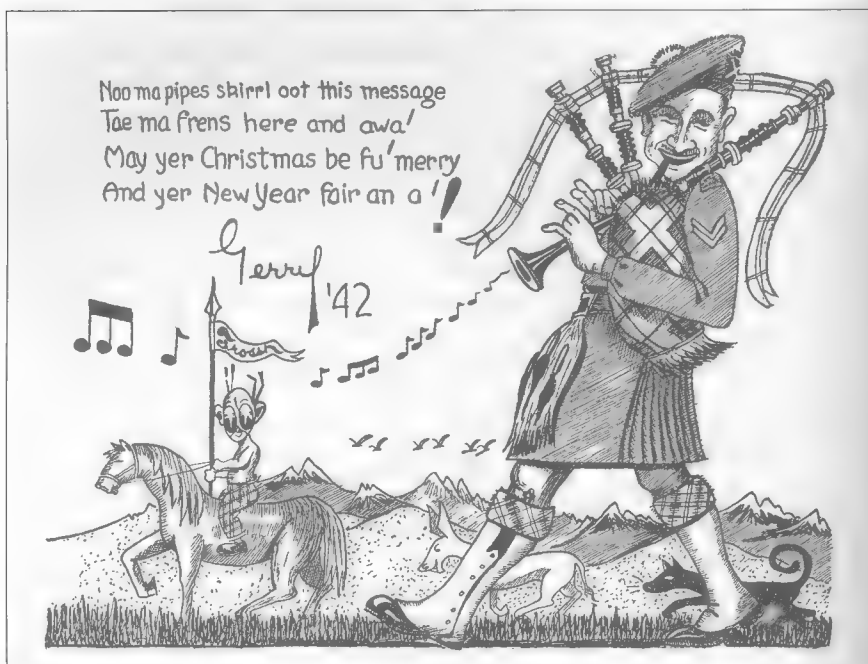
## Pharmacy and the Military

*by J.K. Penley*

**The "Pharmacy Platoon".** During the early days of World War II, Calgary pharmacists, like all citizens, tried to do their bit. Retail drug stores actively supported the sale of war saving stamps and war savings certificates. On busy days downtown such as Saturdays, some drug stores sponsored teams of young women who sold the stamps to the crowds of shoppers.

Many drug stores would only sell a tube of tooth paste or shaving cream when the customer turned in their old empty tube for salvage.

Several pharmacists and apprentices took classes in first aid under St. John's Ambulance Instructor, Bill Ravenstein, who was an employee of the Alberta National Drug in Calgary. Others joined the "reserve Army" or Militia. There was an effort being made at the time to obtain commissioned rank for all pharmacists in the Forces. Some suggestion was made that if a pharmacist qualified in some other military unit as a lieutenant or better, this rank might be retained or be influential if that pharmacist joined the Medical Corps on Active Service. Whether true or a rumour, this encouraged several Calgary pharmacists and apprentices to join the Calgary Highlanders Militia where



Gerry Shapter's Christmas card in 1942 had a military theme

they had twice weekly parades and a summer camp at Sarcee, near Calgary. Noel Farrow encouraged this group as did Gerry Shapter, an officer in the Calgary Highlanders. Enrolment fell short of a full platoon but a few did attend parades and some camps and included: Bill Rook, Howard Pickup, Ken Penley, Joe Altilio, Jimmy Stott plus Ed Kadlec and Bill Mitchell who had previously joined the unit, and probably others. In time, many of these pharmacy employees had to curtail their military activity because of irregular working hours and the pharmacy platoon became a memory.

**Canadian Officer's Training Corps.** The University of Alberta Contingent of the C.O.T.C. has always been an important part of university life for male students. As a voluntary service it attracted many recruits, over 350 in 1927 for example, and many commissioned officers in the Militia and later on Active Service obtained their training while at university. Trainees received pay which for many was very welcome. The Corps has provided the Guard of Honour at the opening of the Provincial Legislature complete with its own military band. Church parades, route marches and tactical schemes were held.

During World War II, C.O.T.C. training was compulsory and included a summer term of training at Sarcee Camp under canvas. Training for ski-troops was available during winter months.

Pharmacy had a particular connection with the C.O.T.C. as the director of the School of Pharmacy was, for nearly forty years, the Commanding Officer. Under Col. Dunn's direction the C.O.T.C. became one of the best and the largest such peace time units in the Dominion.

**Military Anecdotes.** When the armistice was announced November 11 th, 1918, druggists got involved in the celebration. Bill Rook in Calgary and Gerry Shapter in Vancouver both reported that the public celebrated by sprinkling talcum powder or dusting powder over one another. Drug stores enjoyed an excellent sale of those products until stock ran out.

Gordon Sproule had his Depot Drug across from the CPR station in Calgary. Hearing that a draft was to assemble then leave at 2.00 A.M. one night, he opened to see if there might be some business. Evidently soldiers did not have razors issued to them at that time. On that one night alone, Sproule sold one gross of Valet Auto Strop Razors.

During W.W.I, Sarcee Military Camp near Calgary allowed merchants to open retail stores in or very near the camp. One such was a McDermid Drug branch opened by Neil I. McDermid.

### **Committee on the Status of the Pharmacist in the Armed Forces**

The role played by pharmacists, serving as such, in the armed forces during World War II, 1939 to 1945, was a contentious issue. The problem was that of recognition and use of the training and skills of the pharmacist and to have them granted rank commensurate with that of other professionals in the health services with comparable training. As well it was thought that military personnel should be afforded the same care and protection with medications as civilians enjoyed.

At the start of the war, the establishment under which the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps was organized was the same as that used for many years following World War I, 1914 to 1918 with few changes. A similar situation existed in the Naval Health Services. The R.C.A.F. no doubt had to form a newer health organization.

Very few pharmacists were recognised as such in the Navy. Dispensing of medications was combined with other duties and performed by Sick Berth Attendants who were not necessarily pharmacists. No elevated rank was given if that individual was a pharmacist. Some pharmacists were employed

as such in the Air Force and were given rank as commissioned or non-commissioned officers. Many others were given dispensing duties combined with other work and may or may not have been awarded rank.

The Canadian Army seemed to have a clearer role for a pharmacist. The establishment called for a "Dispenser" in certain units such as a Field Ambulance, a Military Hospital, a General Hospital and perhaps elsewhere. It was not essential that the dispenser be a pharmacist but in fact, where pharmacists were available, they were placed in these positions, often with the rank of sergeant or staff-sergeant. Some larger units such as general hospitals and medical stores had a pharmacist with commissioned rank as well as others as non-commissioned officers. Some pharmacists who were surplus to the numbers allowed by establishment were also utilized in the above duties or at Medical Inspection Rooms, with the rank of private.

Pharmacists felt that they should all be commissioned as were other health professionals. A.Ph.A. president Norman Scott, himself a veteran, formed a committee on the "Status of the Pharmacist in the Armed Forces".

Pharmacists Noel A. Farrow and Lt.Col. F.A. Stewart Dunn were most active in this committee which sought to obtain commissioned rank for all pharmacists in the forces and to assure that all dispensing in the forces was performed by pharmacists. Their efforts were monumental and one can appreciate the heavy task they faced by examining the reams of correspondence which are preserved in the Glenbow Archives in Calgary with the Farrow papers. They finally had a bill placed before the House of Commons by Calgary M.P. Manley Edwards which called for a minimum rank of Lieutenant or equivalent for pharmacists acting as such in the armed forces.

The fruition of their efforts came too late to benefit many members of our profession during the period of the conflict but since that time pharmacists in the armed forces have been given commissioned rank. The value of a pharmacist's service became better recognised by those in command and in the post war period, pharmacists in civilian life were exposed to many pleas in the form of advertisements asking them to join the services with immediate commissioned rank. All Canadian pharmacists owe a great debt of gratitude to those Albertans who were front and centre in the fight to obtain suitable recognition for pharmacists in the armed forces.

## Emergency Health Service (Alberta)

by W. L. Boddy and Aaron Mann

AN IMPORTANT PART of the history of pharmacy in these first one hundred years was played by pharmacists in Emergency Health Services (Alberta).

Shortly after the end of World War II, Winston Churchill stated that, "An Iron Curtain has descended cutting Western Europe off from Russia and the Eastern European countries have been placed under the thumb of Russia".

The "Distant Early Warning" line popularly referred to as the D.E.W. line, the Mid Canada line and other early warning systems were established in Northern Canada to detect planes and guided missiles attacking North America. The Emergency Measures Organization was initiated by the Alberta Government and an Emergency Health Services using many volunteers evolved.

Dr. Somerville, Deputy Minister of Health, headed up Emergency Health Services; volunteers were sent to the Emergency Measures College at Arncliffe, Ontario for training.

The first pharmacist to be involved was Ernest Elmer Sexsmith. He was privy to the early planning to determine the need, the manpower required and the materials which would have to be assembled.

Mr. Sexsmith was replaced by Ted Hart and subsequently by Walt Boddy. Walt entered the organization as a volunteer and became the first pharmacist to be named to the position of Health Supplies Officer. He left his management position with Tamblin to accept the appointment.

Work was commenced with all the Active Treatment Hospitals in Alberta to produce and exercise hospital disaster plans. Walt Boddy and Jim Thorsley of Dispensaries Ltd., in Edmonton produced a synthetic blood for casualty simulation purposes. It was superior to the one recommended by E.M.O., Ottawa.

Dr. Pat Rose, Deputy Minister of Health, headed up E.H.S. Dr. Robert Duncan was Director of Emergency Health Services (Alberta). Miss Gertrude





Aaron Mann, 1942

Hogan was nurse consultant and Walt Boddy was Health Supplies Officer.

Emergency Measures (Alberta) had Col. Arnold Levoie as Director and Ernest Tyler was a staff member. Some Federal staff at this time of Emergency Health Services were: Dr. Art Hardman, Director; Dr. Hacon, Deputy Director; Earl Matthews, Pharmacist - Supplies Officer; Tom McCormick, Pharmacist; Bev Hughes, Pharmacist; Ev Pepper, Nurse Consultant.

From the Calgary area, Cec Henderson and Ken Penley were trained at Arnprior and were expected to set up Field Hospitals should an emergency so require.

In 1965 W. Boddy left E.H.S. to join the staff at the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. Mr. Aaron Mann of Calgary assumed the position of Pharmacist - Health Supplies Officer of Emergency Health Services (Alberta).

Aaron left the Calgary Associate Clinic to commence his duties as Health Supplies Officer on November 1, 1965. He, Gertrude "Hogie" Hogan, Nurse Consultant and Norm Fance, Supplies Officer were sent to Arnprior. It was immediately noticeable that Alberta was much ahead of other provinces. When the Alberta group returned to Edmonton, they were immediately immersed in preparing for a contrived accident which would involve the Hospital Disaster Plans of the Edmonton General and Misericordia Hospitals. Simulated accidents were planned to test the disaster plans of the General and Misericordia hospitals in Edmonton. Volunteers from the army

were used as accident victims. The hospital emergency plans were found wanting in many respects and it was these apparent deficiencies that the group set about to correct.

At this time the Federal government commenced to release emergency medical supplies to be strategically pre-positioned. The number of units was based on the number of supposed nuclear bomb targets. By 1966 Alberta had pre-positioned more units than all the rest of the provinces combined.

At the end of 1966 Dr. Bob Duncan left his post as Medical Director and Aaron became Acting Director.

Dr. Gray McLaren was hired as Medical Services Director in 1968. Dr. McLaren assumed a consultant role and the actual direction was carried out by Aaron Mann.

In 1974 Miss Hogan retired. She was replaced by Carolynne Ross.

Work began in earnest in preparing hospital disaster plans. Soon a model plan was adopted expandable for larger hospitals and compressed for smaller rural hospitals.

In consultation with all personnel involved it became easy to integrate. The local pharmacist was involved and it was all the better if he was a part-time member of the hospital staff. Every hospital in Alberta was exercised for appraisal at least every five years.

In 1985 there was a tragic train accident at Hinton. Due to the organization which was in place, the Hinton Hospital received 94 casualties in 120 minutes. It received some; discharged some; and stabilized others prior to moving them to Edmonton.

Friday, July 31, 1987 was "Black Friday". That was the day the tornado swept through the industrial fringe of Edmonton. It skirted most of refinery row, jumped the Saskatchewan River and wreaked havoc on a trailer site in north east Edmonton. The first 19 casualties were taken to Alberta Hospital, Oliver because of its proximity. It was fortuitous that Alberta Hospital, despite violent early objections, had agreed to develop a Multiple Casualty Reception Plan. They had agreed, reluctantly, on the premise that they could be called upon in the event of a major traffic disaster on the Manning Freeway. They were greatly relieved and roundly praised for doing the job for which they had prepared themselves.

Prior to both of these disasters, Aaron Mann had retired. He was the last pharmacist to be involved in Emergency Health Services. Pharmacy owes a debt of gratitude to Aaron Mann, Walt Boddy, Ted Hart and Ernie Sexsmith for their farsightedness, their planning skills and their dedication to the real aims and objects of the profession of pharmacy.

# Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Southern Alberta

by J. K. Penley

## **Pharmacists and Pharmacies in the Towns of Alberta**

Many pharmacists followed those pioneers arriving in what is now Alberta, usually locating along the C.P.R. main line where communities were established. As branch lines spread through Alberta like a spiders web, then when the Grand Trunk and later the C.N.R., the N.A.R. and other lines went through, more northern points opened up. All enterprising pharmacists took the chance that the small new village or town, in which they had placed their hope, would prosper and grow. Some did, some did not. The record in these chapters illustrates this quite well. In more recent years, the importance of being on a rail line diminished and highways for motor traffic became more critical. Then as better motor vehicles and highways were built, many smaller communities suffered as the population became more mobile.

It is interesting to look back and to see what pharmacists came before us and where they settled. We find that many of the first drug stores were opened by the local physician. This situation diminished then almost disappeared as more pharmacists became available.

As an important part of our historical record, we herewith present the pharmaceutical history of those towns for which we have the information. Much of the data has been obtained by examining business directories of the day, the original register of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, by personal interviews and the historical books issued by many communities. The Archives Committee of A.Ph.A. made several appeals to the pharmacists in practice in Alberta, asking that they inform us of pharmacists in their town or city, present and past, and to outline the progressive ownership of their own pharmacy. Many did so and we sincerely thank them. Many others did not and should the pharmaceutical history of a particular town be incomplete, we regret this but our researchers did their best with the

assistance and information supplied to them.

For ease of research, we have divided the province into three major areas. The area from the U.S.A. border to a line through Didsbury has been designated Southern Alberta. From there up to highway 16 we refer to as Central Alberta. Communities on highway 16 and north from there are termed Northern Alberta. The two larger cities are reported separately.

The information herein was gathered over a period of time prior to publication of this book and may be accurate only to the time it was obtained.

The following lists are abbreviated and condensed for reasons of space and no attempt has been made here to employ a fine literary style of presentation. In many cases a much more detailed and very interesting narrative concerning either the community's pharmacies or the biographies of the pharmacists, may be examined at the Archives of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in Edmonton.

## **Southern Alberta**

**Acme.** Twin brothers, both pharmacists, had a drug store here some time prior to 1913 and likely before 1911. They were Arthur Whitmore and Dr. George Herbert Whitmore. They moved to Drumheller in 1913. In 1916 Acme once more had a drug store when once more two brothers, again one of them a physician, moved to Acme from Irricana. They were Dr. William Grosert Fowler, under whose A.Ph.A. registration the store was licensed and his older brother Robert John "Bert" Fowler who received his pharmacy training somewhere in Ontario. The store was destroyed by fire in 1921 but they carried on in a new building. Robert John "Bob" Fowler, son of Bert, graduated in pharmacy 1939 and returned to Acme when his father was ill, operated the pharmacy from 1948 until 1982 when it was closed. There is no pharmacy in Acme now.

**Airdrie.** Dr. William F. Edwards was registered with A.Ph.A. from 1911 to at least 1918. As he also held a licence from the N.W.T. Ph.Assn., he may have been in Airdrie prior to 1911. Dr. P. Staples Brown had a retail drug store here circa 1968, 1969. William "Bill" Glass bought Dr. Brown's stock about 1970 and ran the business as a drug sundries store for two years. Then in 1972 he built and opened Airdrie Pharmacy and ran it until 1976. John Wong and Ken Fung bought Airdrie Pharmacy in 1976. It is now known as the Airdrie I.D.A. Pharmacy. The city of Airdrie now has four pharmacies, the other three being Centre West Super Drug Mart, Reg. Hihn mgr., Safeway Pharmacy No. 281, Larery Friske, mgr., and Pharmasave, Denise Melrose mgr..

**Alderston.** Dr. S. F. McEwen, a physician, was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1911 when this community was known as Carlstad. The name change occurred due to anti German sentiment during World War 1. He operated a drug store here, along with his medical practice, from 1912 to 1918, when he left to live in Medicine Hat. McEwen employed B. A. Barnes as his "druggist" but Barnes' name does not appear on the register of the A.Ph.A..

**Alsask.** Although in Saskatchewan, Alsask had some pharmacists with Alberta licences. John Herbert Poley, who had a N.W.T. licence, registered with the A.Ph.A. in 1911 but gave his address as Alsask, Saskatchewan. Charles Wylie, also registered with A.Ph.A., worked in Alsask at the Poley Pharmacy.

**Arrowwood.** R. Roy Saunders moved to Arrowwood from Blackie in 1925. The family lived in the rear of the drug store. Sinnott MacDonald apprenticed with Mr. Saunders during the late 1920's and they were later business partners in Calgary. Mr. Saunders was also the postmaster for the town. In 1933 he sold the business to Ernest E. Jacques who had been in Youngstown and Chinook. Mr. Jacques was the pharmacist in Arrowwood for the next 17 years until 1950. He also served his community as mayor from 1942 until 1945. Mr. Cliff Curtis was the next owner then in 1967, Mr. G. Burris bought the store. It is not known if the latter two men were pharmacists.

**Atlee.** A Mr. Douglas and Mr. A. Powell had a " drug store" here circa 1920. Neither were registered with our Association.

**Banff.** Being on the main line of the newly arrived C.P.R., Banff was one of the first communities, in what was to become Alberta, to have a pharmacy. Dr. R. G. Brett, who had been on the rear platform of the first construction train to pull into Calgary, Aug. 14, 1883, shortly after moved on to Banff where he built the Banff Sanatorium. He then opened Banff's first drug store across from the Mineral Springs Hospital. It was then, or later, called the National Park Drug Co. and it was open only in the summers. He later had a second store called the Banff Pharmacy, located next to the Harmony Drug Store and this business was open the entire year.

Dr. Brett was a founder of the Manitoba Medical College and was Professor of Materia Medica there.

Peter Ross, from Ontario, stated that he was the first pharmacist in Banff and he managed the Brett business from 1884. He later worked for the Dawson-Boles & Co. in Banff in 1891 then left in 1893 to manage Dr. Wilson's Drug Store in Edmonton where he also claimed to be Edmonton's first pharmacist.



D. W. Bole

The Harmony Drug was established circa 1913 by Mr. Harmon and is still operating under son Don Harmon. Neither were pharmacists but specialized in photography while pharmacists, notably W. C. Bryan, managed the dispensary. This photographic department produced up to 4000 black and white prints per day. There was also a gift department and fountain lunch.

In 1923, H. A. Gourlay, who had been pharmacy manager at Harmony Drug, opened his own Gourlay's King Edward Drugs in Banff's King Edward Hotel building and this business is still operating today.

Charles C. Reid, formerly with Gourlay's, opened his Banff Pharmacy (no connection with the former Brett business) in 1936. Reid was a noted athlete while at the University of Alberta and later. This store featured imported perfumes and Reid also had two gift stores. Banff Pharmacy closed prior to Reid's death.

Ted Langridge had been a stock boy at Harmony Drug, apprenticed at Gourlay's Drug, later had a business in Vegreville then in the 1950's opened his Corner Drug Store in Banff. At the time, this was a fourth pharmacy in Banff. It closed at or near the time of the death of Ted Langridge.

Linway Drug was opened in 1969 by Wayne Steinle then in 1989 Peter Eshenko and Randy McLean opened their pharmacy.

Considering the population of Banff and the number of pharmacies there,

an extraordinary number of pharmacists have practised there, perhaps due to the attractive resort site or possibly due to the need for additional staff during the tourist season. The following are known to have worked in Banff: Peter Ross, A. W. Haldiman, Albert Hughes, John Dawson, D. W. Bole, John Lawrenson, A. A. Keir, E. LeRoy Bannantyne, Walter McKay, Dr. W. E. Bryans, Joseph McCabe, C. J. Ritter, Frank W. Marlatt, J. H. Magee, H. A. Gourlay, W. I. Linton, M. Watts, W. C. "Bill" Bryan, Dorothy Whiteman Boyce, Charles Becker, George Law, Fred King, A. Y. Millar, C. C. Reid, Bill Hunt, Bill Buckley, Ted Langridge, Bryce Thompson, Stewart Dunlap, Gary Mironuk, Wayne Steinle, George Kerr, Ken Newcombe, Ernest Libech, Peter Eshenko, Randy McLean.

Presently there are three pharmacies in Banff, Harmony Drug, Ernest Libech, mgr., Gourlay's Pharmacy, P. Eshenko & R. McLean mgrs., and Cascade Plaza Drug, Joanne Diakun mgr.. At the Banff Springs Mineral Hospital are Peter Eshenko, Randall McLean and Darren Belik.

**Barons.** Dr. W. E. Walburn (Reg. NWT) had an early pharmacy in Barons.

Clarence Pickup became the pharmacist and an active citizen of Barons in 1921 and ran the drug store there until 1933 or 1934. Mr. Pickup later became Registrar-Treasurer of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. He sold the business to A. W. "Red" McKechnie who had it for a short time. The store was bought by Raleigh G. Martin, a local Barons boy, in the late 1930's. He later served in the U.S. Navy then became a travelling salesman. The Martins were famous at the time for being the parents of quadruplets.

Vorece "Vern" Wellman and O. F. Geehan opened Foothills Pharmacy No. 2 here in 1946 with Wellman as resident manager. This pharmacy closed after a couple of years.

Three future pharmacists were born in Barons: Archie McKechnie Jr., Howard Pickup and Winona Davis, later Winona Turner.

Winona was delivered by Dr. Walburn and apprenticed with Mr. Martin 1936-37.

**Bassano.** The name Stiles is synonymous with pharmacy in Bassano. Joel Herbert Stiles opened a drug store here 30 Oct. 1909. He had apprenticed with Annie Simpson in Innisfail. Mr. Stiles had the first telephone exchange in Bassano in his store and he acted as the night operator. A day operator was hired and she later became May Stiles and the mother of eight Stiles children. Ed Stiles, a nephew, apprenticed here with his uncle then managed some branch stores elsewhere before leaving Bassano to own his own business.

A second generation appeared. William Joel "Bill" Stiles served his apprenticeship with his father Joel, graduated in 1954, then took his place in the

pharmacy. Bill and his brother Edwin Garnet "Ted" Stiles bought the business in 1957 after Joel's death and renamed the store "Stiles The Druggist".

Now a third generation of Stiles enter the picture. John Stiles, son of Bill; Pat Stiles, son of Ed; Penny Stiles, niece of Bill. All became pharmacists.

The Stiles Pharmacy was a strong supporter of the Rexall Co. franchise and won many awards from Rexall for their sales records, including first in sales in Canada four times for towns under 1,000 population.

Stiles The Druggist carried on until it was sold in 1989 to Gwen Young who is the present pharmacist at the Bassano I.D.A. Pharmacy.

The Bassano Drug Co. was owned by Dr. Alex G. Scott who ran it at least in 1926 and perhaps longer as he had held an A.Ph.A. licence from 1914. Dr. Scott was a "Flying Doctor" who served the surrounding communities by visits with his own airplane.

Others registered by A.Ph.A. at Bassano include: Dr. E. C. Harris, who acted as pharmacist for Joel Stiles 1916 to 1918 when Joel enlisted: Annie Simpson, the first female pharmacist in Western Canada, worked here in the early 1920's after leaving the pharmacy at the Calgary General Hospital; John Claxton was registered as in Bassano 1922-1923.

The Bassano General Hospital pharmacy is staffed by Ann Fairman.

**Beiseker.** It is believed there was never a pharmacy here during the early days although there was a physician, Dr. Verbeek, in practise. David Fegan opened a pharmacy here 27 Nov. 1979 and is still operating Beiseker I.D.A. Pharmacy, and is Mayor of the town.

**Bellevue.** E. C. MacDonald, pharmacist, was in business here 1912. His drug store was purchased by J. Alfred "Doc" Barbour in 1920. While in Bellevue, Doc. Barbour piloted his hockey team to the Alberta Senior Championship in 1922. He left Bellevue in 1934. Others with pharmacy in the town were Dr. Duncan C. MacKenzie (A.Ph.A. 1913) and Idris Haysom who served his apprenticeship here in 1934.

**Big Valley.** Robert D. Mace was a (non-voting) member of A.Ph.A. in 1916.

Gilbert James Anderson registered with our association in 1917 and reference has been made to his role in the 'flu epidemic of 1918. Miss Margaret Victoria Bennett was in Stettler in 1924 and is believed to have also operated a pharmacy in Big Valley. A drug store, possibly hers, burned in 1939.

**Black Diamond.** G. A. Holben is reported to have opened a drug store here, date unknown. Mr. Holben was not registered with the A.Ph.A. thus we are not sure if he was a pharmacist. Joseph F. Cassidy bought the Holben business



in 1929 and is thought to have been the first pharmacist in Black Diamond. Mrs. Cassidy worked with her husband, then when Joe became ill, then after he died, she ran the store with help from several pharmacists. She had special praise for Annie M. Goodhall who was one such pharmacist. During this period there were many times when Mrs. Cassidy sent prescriptions by a boy named "Butch" who cycled to the nearby town of Turner Valley where pharmacist Joe Korczynski would fill the prescription and send it back by the same messenger. H. R. Steeves was another pharmacist in Black Diamond, circa 1933, who may have assisted Mrs. Cassidy. At some time in this period, the store was known as Diamond Drugs.

Pharmacist Bert James rented the drug store from Mrs. Cassidy then purchased it in the early 1940's. Hal Roach had also taken over this business for a while with the help of a pharmacist but the year is not known. Sherman Pon bought the pharmacy from James in 1979 then in 1981-82, Aileen McNamee became owner and she soon doubled the size of the store to 1800 sq. ft.. Arthur Jaeb bought the business in 1987 then after about two years, sold it in Nov. 1988 to Jack Cargill. With his wife Beverley, they moved it to a new 3000 sq. ft. building and renamed it The Foothills Community Drug Mart.

A second drug store existed here in the early 1940's under the registration of Dr. David Lander but we know of no other pharmacist who worked at this location.

The pharmacist presently at the Oilfields General Hospital is Herschell Fawcett.

**Blackie.** G. L. Anderson had the first pharmacy here in 1910 when he moved to Blackie from Brant in order to be on the C.P.R. line. He was followed by Harold C. Shepherd or Victor Hessell, both of whom were in Blackie during the "teen" years. Hessell later sold and moved to Okotoks. George M. Carson (1916), R. Roy Saunders (1920) and M. Dobbie (1920) were registered by A.Ph.A. as being at Blackie in those years. W. A. Acton came to Blackie just in time to feel the fury of the Great Depression and in 1931 Harold Waterbury, with the help of Alberta National Drug, took over this store and operated it until 1933, when a crop killing summer frost closed the business. Mr. Waterbury was followed later by a Mr. Morrison. H. A. "Duke" Ferguson worked here briefly as a store manager.

**Blairmore.** Some early pharmacists in this Crowsnest Pass community include; Selby James Watson and Harold George Bigelow, both registered in the first year of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, 1911. They may have been in Blairmore before that. O. M. Forhan was here in 1915 and 1916 before moving to Eckville. J. A. "Doc" Barbour was a 1916 registrant as was Ernest Hooge in 1918. F. W. Smith practised here, perhaps in the 1930's, and R. R.

Large was here 1935. W. Burpee Steeves also practised in Blairmore.

Gordon Steeves bought the Blairmore Pharmacy in 1924 and ran it until his retirement in 1950. Mickey Finn was the next owner and the store became the Mickey Finn Pharmacy. We have no evidence of any chloral hydrate cocktails being served by Mr. Finn. In 1975 the new owners became Jeff Higa and Keith Tanaka. Keith M. Kanaka currently operates the Crowsnest Value Drug Mart.

John Gray was proprietor of Gray's Drug and in 1965 sold it to Grant Hall who is present owner of Grant Hall Pharmacy Ltd..

The Crowsnest Pass Health Care Centre was managed by Mickey Finn from 1975. He died in 1989. At present the staff at this centre includes Darren L. Gierulski and Catherine McCann.

**Botha.** H. A. Hart is listed here in the 1928-29 Alberta directory. The entry is under a town of Dora but as Hart had a pharmacy in nearby Gadsby, his daughter suspects a spelling or hand writing error confusing Botha for Dora. She was unaware of this store.

**Bottrel.** (This information was obtained from a business directory under the heading "Bowtell". An error in spelling is suspected).

J. L. Gerow was reported as being in business here. He had been registered with A.Ph.A. in 1911 and also practised at Wainwright and Forestburg. E. C. Logan also had a listing under "drug stores" but was not registered with A.Ph.A..

**Bow City.** Dr. Shaw, a physician and pharmacist owned and ran an early drug store here.

**Bow Island.** There is a report of a pharmacy here, operated by a pharmacist, as early as 1909. Dr. G. B. Mills has been credited with having the first drug store so the above reference may be to Mills. His drug store was certainly in existence in 1913 and he was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1911 and perhaps N.W.T. before that. Dr. J. H. Patterson, circa 1912 and Dr. C. B. Munroe, circa 1915 were both registered with A.Ph.A. and Munroe had a drug store in Grassy Lake so may have had a retail drug store here as well. Thomas R. Blaine took over a doctor's drug store some time after 1913 and ran it until 1927. Blaine had been at Redcliffe. After Blaine, Bow Island had no pharmacist from 1927 until 1953. In the interval a non-prescription "drug store" was in business and was later bought and continued as such by Mrs. Violet Thomas.

Elmer O. Bergh bought this business in 1953 and turned it into a proper pharmacy. With irrigation, the town and the pharmacy prospered. This town was a popular call for travelling salesmen, some of whom claimed expenses for

the "ferry trip" to Bow Island. Their head office in the east did not know that Bow Island could be reached in a normal way by road.

Frank Vance bought the Bergh business in 1961 then in 1973 sold it to Murray Johnson who ran it as Johnson's Bow Island Drug.

Steve Omischuk, who worked with Johnson, was the next owner in 1980 and it is still operating under the name of Bow Island I.D.A. Pharmacy and is the only pharmacy now in Bow Island.

Other pharmacists who have practised in Bow Island include; Bert Blain Boone, (A.Ph.A. reg. 1920); Rich Anderson, pharmacist with Johnson 1974 to 1976; Linda Jacque, pharmacist with S. Omischuk 1981 to 1983; Judy Phillips, pharmacist with S. Omischuk 1988 to present.

At the Bow Island Health Centre, Judy Phillips is pharmacist.

**Bragg Creek.** This community had no pharmacy until Sept. 1987 when one was opened by Donald G. Gebauer. Mr. Gebauer is assisted at present by Mr. Bob Charman.

**Brant.** G. L. Anderson was in practise here prior to 1910.

**Brooks.** In 1908, Peter William McNab alit from the C.P.R. train onto the platform of the Brooks Station with some of his drug store merchandise. He sold his first goods from that station platform and was assisted in that task by a young Bert Bertrand, a salesman for the National Drug Co. of Can., and who became General Manager of the Alberta-National Drug Co. many years later. Mr. McNab opened the first drug store in Brooks that year. He obtained both the Nyal and Rexall agencies and also had the telephone exchange in his store. He later managed the Gayety Theatre in Brooks as well. Branch stores were opened in Retlaw, Tilley and Duchess. Peter McNab served his community well and was Mayor 1914. He left Brooks in approximately 1922.

One day in 1912 a young pharmacist named Noel Farrow got off the train in Brooks, for what reason we do not know other than he was seeking a place to work having travelled from Prince Edward Island. He met Mr. McNab who asked him in and put him up for a few days until he went on his way. The two men were fast friends from then on.

Stanley R. Luckham set up a second drug store in Brooks in 1912 but left for Youngstown after about three years.

Wilbur Albert Cory, a veteran of World War I, opened Cory's Drug Store in Brooks circa 1922-23, coming from Medicine Hat where he had also apprenticed. As he had the telephone exchange and as the dates suggest it, he may have purchased the McNab business. "Swag" Cory had a dance orchestra as

well, which played in the area. Cory sold his pharmacy and home to W. C. Masters in 1940.

William Clark Masters (U. of Sask 1917), had come from Tompkins Saskatchewan where he had closed his drug store due to drought. Brooks Pharmacy was the new name for the drug store. W. C. Masters Jr. graduated from the U. of Alta. in pharmacy in 1943. Both he and his father were licenced by A.Ph.A. the same year, 1943. Bill joined his father until he left to practise in Stettler. Another son, Bob, also worked with his father in a non professional capacity. Pharmacists who worked at Brooks Pharmacy include Robert J. Fowler 1941 to 1948. Len Slipp 1948 to 1957, Joan Emery (Johnson). Wilf Poxon operated the store 1963 to 1970 and with partner Gerry Keating 1968 to 1970. Poxon was also a mayor of Brooks. This pharmacy was purchased by three pharmacists; Ernie Ozem, Derek West and Harold Brooks in 1971 and was managed by Paul Ainscough and Eugene Bent until it closed in 1982.

Gordon L. Larsen opened his Larsen Drug in the late 1940's and operated it until 1953. Ralph Shellenberg bought this business and renamed it Central Drug. He served a term as mayor of Brooks. Brother Dennis Shellenberg also practised in this pharmacy for one year.

Ronald R. Brandt was the next owner and named it Brandt Central Drugs Ltd.. Pharmacist Doreen Brandt was associated with her husband in this pharmacy. Other pharmacists who worked here include; Gerry Keating 1970-76, Dave Danko 1976-88, Linda Tang 1976-87, Garth McKay 1988-90. This business was purchased by the Shopper's Drug Mart Nov. 1990 and is staffed by manager Larry Pratt pharmacists Gerry Kalmring and Ronald Brandt.

The Brooks Plaza Drug Mart was opened Dec. 1973 by partners Phillip W. Barg and Donald Snell. James Kitagawa and Vicki Gunn are pharmacists there.

Murray J. Johnson opened Johnson's Drug April 1978. This pharmacy was sold to Rick Anderson and Craig Jensen of Taber. Evelyn Hunka has been a pharmacist here. This pharmacy closed June 1989.

The Newell Pharmacy was established by Phil Barg and Don Snell in March 1979. Don Snell is the present owner. Other pharmacists at the Newell Clinic Pharmacy have included Phil Bolduc, Leiza A. Bergstresser Merle Howard and Leiza Clow.

The Brooks General Hospital pharmacists are Manfred Yau and Claude F. Matthews.

**Burdette.** John Blackburn (non. reg) had a drug store here 1911-14. The Blaine Drug and Book store existed circa 1920. There might be a connection with T. R. Blaine of nearby Bow Island but this is unconfirmed. Directories tell us that Ethel M. Johnston circa 1922-24 and Mrs. F. A. Lombard, circa 1928-29 had a drug store(s). Neither were registered.

**Byemoor.** Captain Sid. DiBarthy arrived in Byemoor in 1928 and dispensed from his home until the DiBarthy Pharmacy was built. It is thought that DiBarthy was not a registered pharmacist but Dr. Wickware who was in the town was registered with A.Ph.A., so possibly DiBarthy operated under Wickware's licence. Both men left Byemoor in 1931 and reappeared later in Sylvan Lake.

**Canmore.** William L. Buckley understood that his drug store, which he opened in the spring of 1948, was Canmore's first. However John J. Weinfield, who was in business in Calgary, had a pharmacy here for a brief period sometime between 1925 and 1928. The name Astley James Walker appears in the register of A.Ph.A. as having been in Craigmyle then Canmore in the 1920's, whether as an owner or employee is not clear.

Andy Scollon Bought the Buckley Drug Store Aug. 1953 and ran it until 1962.

Terry McLaughlin was the next owner and was in business from 1962 to 1978. Dr. Marin, a dentist purchased the business but closed it.

Lloyd Briggs opened Briggs Pharma-C-Mart Feb. 28 1978 and bought the stock of the Dr. Marin business.

Gary Mironiuk opened Mironiuk I.D.A. Pharmacy March 1, 1976 giving Canmore two pharmacies.

A third pharmacy was opened by Catherine Deane, Jan. 1991.

Other pharmacists who have practised in Canmore include; Harold Brooks, Rhonda Wilson, Audrey Foster Paulin and Gwen Heath at the Canmore Hospital.

**Carbon.** An early pharmacist in Carbon was Frederick James C. Morrison (A.Ph.A. 1919). Arthur F. McKibbin came to Carbon from Carmangay in 1927 and operated his pharmacy here until the mid 1940's when he moved to Calgary. Mr. McKibbin served as president of the A.Ph.A. 1932-1933. Robert Shaw bought the McKibbin business Jan. 1945 and carried on as Carbon's pharmacist until he left in 1953 to become a medical detail representative. Since that time there has been no pharmacist in Carbon but a patent medicine store exists. Other pharmacists who were in Carbon include Wilf Poxon who apprenticed under Mr. McKibbin, and James G. Ramsay who was in Carbon at least in 1934 and who was later in Calgary.

Four pharmacy students at U. of A. convinced Col. Dunn that they should be excused from classes to enter the Edmonton Bonspiel in 1936. As each rink had to represent a community and as Carbon had no other entry, Wilf Poxon obtained permission to carry the Carbon colours. Their rink did well, progressing to the finals before being eliminated.



back (l to r): Vernie Price, Picture Butte; Wilf Poxon, Carbon, East Coulee.  
front: Lane McAthey, Edmonton; Don King, Medicine Hat.

**Cardston.** The Cardston Drug Co. was started in 1899 by Drs. H. W. Brant and J. Tanner Brown. J. J. Johnstone had a drug store in the early days of Cardston but it is not known if this was the above store or another. There was also an Alberta Drug and Book Co. of Lethbridge and Cardston and a label exists bearing that name and the word "Gasoline". Mr. Johnstone sold his business to Sidney L. Eversfield who in turn sold to Dr. Stacpoole in 1910. Stacpoole lived in Cardston 1905 until his death in 1945. Clarence W. Pickup was manager for Stacpoole in 1910 or 1911 at the Cardston Pharmacy. Credit is given to this drug store for being the site of the first Cardston Public Library with a choice of 100 books. Ira Fletcher bought this pharmacy from Pickup and Stacpoole in the 1920's and D. B. Fowler (later Dr. D. B. Fowler) managed it for

Fletcher 1920-22. Mr. T. E. H. Patterson "took over a store in Cardston" and also one in Waterton Lakes Park.

H. L. Higgs bought both Patteson stores then Ben S. Higgs continued ownership. Jack Humphreys and O. C. Stubbs bought the pharmacy from Higgs in 1972 then in 1977 Humphreys became sole owner. Robert Alan Humphreys, son of Jack, bought the business in 1986 and renamed it Cardston Pharmacy Value Drug Mart.

Grant Hinman, with partner Les Nichols, started Temple City Drug in 1951. Nichols later sold his share to Jerry McIntyre then eventually Hinman became sole owner. Mr. Hinman died in 1987. The present owner of this pharmacy is E. Dahl Quinton, and it is now called Pharmasave #308.

The pharmacist at the Cardston Municipal Hospital is Alan Carl Wiley.

**Carmangay.** Tom Little had the first pharmacy in Carmangay in 1909. He also had a drug store in Nanton. The first telephone exchange of the town was in Little's Drug Store. Little, with Frank Williams, also operated a wholesale business. Finley and Follis bought the Little Drug Store in 1914. After the death of Mr. Finley, Ellesworth O. Follis carried on with the help of his son.

A. F. McKibbin bought the Follis store in 1922 and operated this Carmangay Pharmacy until he moved to Carbon. G. V. Leech followed, possibly in 1927. His father was a local physician. This pharmacy was then purchased by W. R. "Ron" Truswell, formerly of Taber, who ran it until 1938 when he moved to Coutts. James Davey, a local citizen, was the next pharmacist in Carmangay operating the pharmacy from 1938 until 1944, when he moved to Calgary. His wife Mabel was a nurse in the town as well. Other pharmacists who practised here include: Dr. Wm. Edward Bryans, 1915, and Frank Wm. Ham, circa 1911. Mr. Follis moved to Montreal where he became a manager for the Hudson Bay Company.

**Carsland.** Laurie William was listed in directories of 1922 to at least 1928 as having a drug store here. He advertised "drug specials" including poisons such as strychnine, in the Strathmore Standard at least in 1922. Had a lending library. Was not registered with A.Ph.A..

**Carstairs.** George Kennedy built the first drug store here in 1901. Clarence William Beattie is believed to have been the next pharmacist here, possibly in 1912 yet directories list McDermid Drug in Carstairs in 1911. Possibly there may be a connection here. Beattie stayed in Carstairs until the end of the decade then later was with Central Drug in Edmonton.

Martin Harry Foster was the longest serving pharmacist in Carstairs having arrived perhaps prior to 1920 and he practised here until his death in 1956. Mr.

Foster also performed the duties of an Undertaker. After his death, Mrs. Gladys Foster kept the pharmacy open, with the assistance of pharmacist manager Anne Goodhall, for two years.

George and Yvonne Gray, both pharmacists, bought the Foster business in 1958. They replaced the old building with a new, modern structure. George Gray died in 1987 and Yvonne Gray continued to operate Gray's Drug Store, as well as acting as pharmacist at the Didsbury Hospital. In late 1990, Murray Johnston, formerly of High Prairie, purchased the Gray business which he renamed the Carstairs C. D. M. Pharmacy.

**Cayley.** In 1906, Mr. Art Chisholm had a drug store here, a branch of his Nanton store. It was managed by his apprentice, Orie Fetherston, who commuted by horseback. This business was purchased by Dr. A. O. Brown in 1907. A directory of 1922 lists A. E. Fawdrey (non. reg.) as having a drug store in Cayley.

**Cereal.** A photo of the Alfred Drug Store in Cereal has been seen but no details are known by us as yet. Mr. Melville J. Howey operated a pharmacy here from 1918 until at least 1945, perhaps until 1953. He was later in Oyen. Mr. Howey died in 1955.

**Champion.** Some early registrants of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association at Champion were; Dr. A. V. Brown in 1911, John C. Mills in at least 1916 to 1918, Joseph F. Cassidy circa 1919. J. Douglas Henderson was proprietor of the Champion Drug Co. in the 1920's and early 1930's. An apprentice for Mr. Henderson was Andrew C. Anderson, later a well known citizen of Lethbridge. Gordon L. Larson was a pharmacist in Champion before moving to Gleichen in the late 1940's. Frank Bennett owned a drug store and soda fountain in Champion, which burned in 1949.

**Chancellor.** W. Ross Douglass was in business here in 1922 but as he did not graduate in pharmacy until 1924, this "drug store" may not have been a dispensing pharmacy. However, Ross' father was a pharmacist from Manitoba and was in Alberta, perhaps with his son.

**Chinook.** O. F. Dunford had a pharmacy in Chinook in at least the years 1915 to 1918. He later had Dunford Drug in Calgary. Charlie Wylie was Chinook's pharmacist in the 1920's. Ernest E. Jacques also practised in Chinook. The drug store closed in 1929.



**Claresholm.** Otto L. Reinecke was the first pharmacist in Claresholm, arriving in 1908. An employee, H. A. "Duke" Ferguson became a shareholder with Mr. Reinecke in the Claresholm Pharmacy then in 1949 took over ownership. Lee Mainprize bought the business in 1976 and is the present owner. Mr. Ferguson continues to live in Claresholm as an active citizen.

A second pharmacy was established here by W. G. N. "Pop" Johnston. He had previously shared the Medical Hall with his brother-in-law Dr. Learn. Robert H. Hughes bought this store in 1922. After his death in 1929, Mrs. Hughes carried on with manager Mr. Cruickshank. Oswald F. Geehan, with partner Vern Wellman, purchased the business and renamed it Foothills Pharmacy. Later, Geehan became full owner. The business was later sold to Wes. Patmore who in turn sold it to Maurice Macowichuk. Mr. Macowichuk eventually closed the pharmacy.

Later, Doug Townsend built and opened a new pharmacy near the Macowichuk location and Claresholm once again had two pharmacies. Hospital pharmacists in Claresholm include Margaret Bolduc, Stanley T. Mitchell and Wesley Walker. Other pharmacists who have been registered in Claresholm include; H. R. Rayner, Mr. Cornthwaite, Miss. M. J. Milnes, Grant Sanders, Jim McGrath and Alf Edlund.

**Cluny.** E. LeRoy Bannantyne and Dr. A. DeMartigny were both licensed by the A.Ph.A. as at Cluny during the years 1913 to 1918.

**Coaldale.** McCann's Drug Sundries was opened in 1947 by Mrs. Peggy McCann. She later employed a pharmacist, Lorne Snook, and the store became Coaldale Pharmacy. Rudy Gettman became an employee pharmacist for Mrs. McCann in 1963 then purchased the business in Jan. 1967. Wayne A. Miller now operates it as Coaldale Pharmacy No. 1. The Coaldale Pharmacy No. 2 was managed by Janna A. Van Esveld, and now by Edward Vegter. LeRon Low moved the stock and fixtures of his Edmonton business and located in Coaldale in 1961 as Low's Pharmacy. He later became manager of the pharmacy in the Lethbridge Woodward's Store but continues to live in Coaldale. The Coaldale Health Care pharmacy has been in the charge of Mark F. Harasymuk, and presently is staffed by Marlene Otrhalek.

**Coalhurst.** Dr. George B. Rose (A.Ph.A. 1915) was in Coalhurst until at least 1918.

**Coalspur.** The Coalspur Drug Store was listed in the 1924 Alberta Directory. No name of a proprietor was given.

**Cochrane.** George H. Smythe was an early pharmacist in Cochrane. We do not have the date of his opening but in 1923 he sold his business to Dr. James Waite who then operated the Cochrane Drug Store. Mrs. Waite believed that Mr. Smythe was Cochrane's first druggist.

The Currey Drug Co. "of Calgary and Cochrane" was in business in Cochrane in at least 1922 as seen on a prescription form in the Pharmacy Archives. Phone No. 5.

Hedley Hart, who had been in business in Gadsby, came to Cochrane 1934 and bought the business of Dr. Waite. While in Cochrane, Mr. Hart and Hart's Drug Store made the "Cochrane Ice Cream Cone" famous.

Robert Graham bought the pharmacy from Mr. Hart and with his wife Alice, a Registered Nurse, operated Graham's Pharmacy from 1956 until he closed it in 1989.

David Tomasyk opened a pharmacy shortly after the Graham business closed then soon after, sold his store to Kelly Kimmett who is operating as the Cochrane Drugs. Ginnette Goulet now has a second pharmacy in Cochrane called Goulet Pharmacy.

**Coleman.** H. A. Parks operated the Coleman Drug Co. in 1910 or 1911. Howard C. McBurney opened his pharmacy here in 1913 and it became one of the longer established businesses under the original ownership, continuing into the 1940's. Joseph Poole (non. reg.) was listed under drug stores in the 1928-29 directory.

Gordon Steeves bought the McBurney business in 1940. Mickey Finn had a drug store here as well as at Blairmore. Idris Haysom served his apprenticeship here and also later practised here as a pharmacist. A. G. "Al" Haysom also practised in Coleman.

**Coutts.** W. R. Truswell opened an "up to date drug store" here about 1936.

**Cowley.** Alex R. McIvor operated the Cowley Drug Store here prior to settling in Calgary in 1912. He had previously been a commercial traveller, calling on drug stores in Alberta.

**Craigmyle.** Carlyle G. Martin had a pharmacy here in the 1920's which he later sold to John D. L. McDonald who operated the drug store from 1925 until 1935, leaving to become the financial manager of the Ponoka Institute. W. Q. Eastman took over from Mr. McDonald and was in Craigmyle until at least 1950. William Qualtrough practised here in the late 1950's or early 1960's. Dr.

Crawford, father of later pharmacist Frank Crawford, carried a small quantity of drugs but could not be considered a "drug store". Astley James Walker is believed to have worked here in the early 1920's.

**Crossfield.** Charles Merrick Smith Thomas opened the first pharmacy here in 1904 and retired 40 years later in 1944. Alfred H. Edlund was in business in Crossfield until approximately 1950. Merv Daum purchased the Edlund Pharmacy and practised here from 1950 until 1960. William Glass was the next pharmacist buying the Crossfield Pharmacy from Daum in 1960 and ran it as such until 1972 at which time he closed the dispensary and operated a "drug sundries" store until 1976 when a Mr. Roy Sackett continued it as such for a short time. Jerry Saik purchased the business from Sackett and reopened the dispensary to again provide full pharmacy service. In 1990, Lee Brandrick became the new owner of the Crossfield I.D.A. Pharmacy.

**Dalemead.** E. G. Walker was listed in the Alberta Directories from 1920 until 1929 as having a "drug store", but was not registered with the A.Ph.A..

**Delia.** A directory of 1911 lists a drug store operated by R. Gilrie. It is not known if he held any qualification. George Richardson had a drug store here in 1913 then George E. Kennedy had his pharmacy in Delia from 1918 until the early 1930's. L. E. Larder managed the Kennedy pharmacy then later bought it. Vern Neely was in business here in the early 1930's prior to his move to Sylvan Lake.

**Diamond City.** Howard C. McBurney was registered with the A.Ph.A. in 1911 as at Diamond City. He left in 1913.

**Didsbury.** The first drug store in Didsbury was established by Doctors Reid and Gettes. The first pharmacist in the town was Hugh Wesley Chambers, who arrived from New York in 1911 and bought the doctors' business. Mr. Chambers served his community well being superintendent of the United Church Sunday School for 20 years and by acting as mayor from 1923 until 1941. He retired to Banff and died in 1944. One pharmacist who worked for Mr. Chambers was James T. Clarke who later served on the Council of the A.Ph.A. for 14 years including two years as president. George Law purchased the Chambers business for \$5,000.00 and began a nineteen year career in Didsbury. Law had previously represented the Rexall Drug Co. in Southern Alberta. Bill Rennie had apprenticed with Mr. Law and was a candidate to purchase the business but instead joined the Chas. E. Frosst Co. In 1957 Law's Drug Store



"The Oatmeal Savages."  
Past Presidents Len Slipp, Ron  
MacLean, Dave McRitchie.

became Slipp's Drug Store as Len Slipp became the new pharmacist in town. Dick Forth purchased Slipp's Drug Store, renamed it Didsbury Drugs and presently operates it. In the late 1970's, Bill and Margo Ward, both pharmacists, opened and now have Ward Value Drugs in Didsbury. Yvonne Gray was pharmacist at the Mountain View Health Care Centre, and now Randy Scott fills that position. Another pharmacist who had practised in Didsbury would be Arthur Appleton Beirnes, possibly in the early 1920's.

Of interest is the fact that three presidents of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association served their profession as such while practising in Didsbury, Hugh Chambers, Len Slipp and Margo Ward.

**Drumheller.** Dr. Dawson Graham opened Drumheller's first drug store in 1912. P. Staples Brown, who had been an employee here in the early 1920's before he became a pharmacist, bought this business and named it the "Gilt Edge Pharmacy". He then sold it to G. J. Anderson who renamed the store "Anderson Drug Store". When Mr. Anderson died in the mid 1930's, his family carried on with son Don Anderson, who was not a pharmacist, as manager. Bill Buckley was employed as pharmacist 1939 to 1941 then left for Canmore. J. Sinnott MacDonald then operated the dispensary of Anderson Drug for many years. After the death of Don Anderson, additional help was given by pharmacists R. J. Fowler and then Bruce MacDonnell.

Murray R. Martin now manages Anderson Drug.

Twin brothers, Arthur and George Whitmore came to Drumheller from Acme to open the Whitmore Drug Store in 1913. They sold it in 1916 to M. C. Switzer who called his business Q. Q. Q. Drugs. (Quality, Quantity, Quick). Wm. Johnston purchased the Switzer business in 1920, then in the mid 1930's this pharmacy was sold to the Anderson Drug and the two drug stores merged into one.

The Drumheller Drug Co. was listed in the business directory of 1914. H. W. Currie may have been the manager.

In the early 1920's there was a Sommerville Drug, thinks Fred Plumb, who remembers purchasing marbles there, 20 for 5 cents.

This was no doubt the business of John N. Sommerville, who was registered in 1920 as being at Drumheller.

T. H. Dick and partner William Toole had both been located in Calgary. In the late 1920's, Dick and Toole opened the Avenue Drug Store in Drumheller. T. H. Dick became sole owner and renamed the business Dick's Drug Store. Toole opened another store in Drumheller briefly, then returned to Calgary. Tom Dick ran his pharmacy until his death in 1938. Mrs. Dick carried on with George England as pharmacist until 1940, then with Robert Fowler until 1941. Fred Plumb became the pharmacist here from when he graduated in 1941, until Mrs. Dick sold the store to Anderson Drug. Anderson Drug continued to operate Dick Drug as a separate business. Bruce MacDonnell joined the staff of Anderson Drug in 1952 then was made the manager of Dick Drug. This pharmacy was later purchased, in part, by Peter Kuchel who then closed it in 1989.

Sterling Drug was opened in 1939 or 1940 by a non-pharmacist, Don Clarke, who staffed it with a number of pharmacists. This business was sold, in 1947, to Charles Wylie and Evelyne Laughlin. Clarke then became a representative for the E. R. Squibb Co. James Wylie later bought his father's share. J. Wylie and E. Laughlin had Sterling Drug until 1953 when it was sold to Fred Plumb. Plumb operated this pharmacy until 1978 when he closed it and retired.

Al King, now at Okotoks, was an apprentice here under preceptor Evelyne Laughlin.

Other more recent pharmacies in Drumheller have been: the White Cross Drug, which opened a branch here for about six years. Don Fischer and Barry Boyko were managers. Jack Vickers bought this business and it became a Pharmasave Drug Store. The Drumheller Co-Op opened a dispensary for a few years under management of Don Fischer. Riverside Pharmacy (Value Drug Mart) was opened in the mid 1970's by Bob Foulon and Paul Ainscough and is now operated by Paul and Patricia Ainscough.

Marvin Menssa is currently the pharmacist at the Regional Health Complex.

Other pharmacists who have practised in Drumheller include: Leslie W. Bell (1914), Albert S. Ransom (1921), George A. Lewis (1926), G. E. Gerhart (1926), J. A. Gilbert (1917), Mac. MacDonnell (1941), Arnold Cowan.

**Duchess.** Peter McNab opened a pharmacy here in 1920, as a branch of his Brooks business. There may have been a "drug store" here before that, possibly in 1916, but we do not have the details. A. E. Pepper was resident manager of the McNab store from 1920 until 1924 and was also the Secretary-Treasurer of the village in 1921. Ed Stiles, from Bassano, took over the McNab pharmacy and ran it from 1924 to 1927 as Stiles The Druggist, then closed it. Mr. Pepper returned to Duchess to re-open the pharmacy but was unable to remain. Harold E. Waterbury took over this drug store, named it Waterbury's Drug Store and ran it for about one year circa 1927. There was no resident doctor but Dr. Scott flew his own airplane in from Bassano occasionally to see patients. Dr. Paul took over the Waterbury store. Fred Mills was registered by the A.Ph.A. as at Duchess in 1928. Anna Hole, who had apprenticed with H. E. Waterbury, reopened the Dr. Paul store in Sept. 1937 and her sister Evelyn ran it until it was closed. Frederick E. Noland was reported to have been in Duchess but we have no details.

H. E. Waterbury described his stay in Duchess: "There was no sidewalk, no electric light, no sewer, no water, no doctor. My drug store was 20' by 20'. I slept on a cot in the small dispensary. For a bath I drove 12 miles into Brooks, or sometimes on a Sunday the 120 miles to Calgary. Rent was \$15.00 per month. My stock was \$1,400.00 but I cleared \$300.00 a month which was better than the going wage of \$125.00".

**East Coulee.** Dr. Perley Staples Brown, a pharmacist, came to East Coulee in 1929 shortly after obtaining his medical degree, and opened a drug store. Wilf Poxon bought the Brown store in 1936 and had Dave Thomson as his apprentice. William Campbell operated the pharmacy from 1942 until 1958 when he closed it and moved to Stettler. John Cotterhill served his apprenticeship with Mr. Campbell.

**Empress.** A former resident recalled a horse drawn travelling medical wagon calling at the town. George L. Brown was the first pharmacist in Empress, arriving in 1913. Mrs. Brown was the first woman in the town. Messrs. Sheppard and McEachern are mentioned as being in Empress at about the same time as Brown, but we have no further details. Dr. A. L. Caldwell was registered by A.Ph.A. as at Empress in 1923. Wm. "Bill" Stothers established himself in Empress in 1926 and operated his pharmacy here until the 1960's

when it closed. Mr. Stothers died in Empress in 1990 at age 89 years. Much of Mr. Stothers and Mr. Brown's stock was saved from a fire and can be seen at Gledhill's Drug Store in Calgary's Heritage Park.

There is no pharmacy at Empress at present but the Empress Municipal Hospital pharmacy is staffed by Gordon L. Johnsen.

**Enchant.** Dr. Dick Woodcock had a drug store here circa 1916.

**Etzikom.** Stanley Cope, following stays at Foremost and Vulcan, spent the year of 1917 as pharmacist at Etzikom.

**Exshaw.** Two men, H. C. Brown and H. Clark, were listed in a business directory as having a "drug store" in this mountain community 1928/29. Neither were registered as pharmacists.

**Foremost.** Stanley Cope (or George Cope, reports vary) built and ran a drug store here possibly in 1911 and he was thought to be the first pharmacist in Foremost. Jack Green followed Cope as proprietor of the Foremost Pharmacy in 1916 with pharmacist Joseph Mark McCabe on staff. Mr. McCabe later became Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipal District. Dr. Louis K. Poyntz also registered with A.Ph.A. in 1915, at Foremost. John H. "Jack" Boylan was the pharmacist at Foremost from 1933 until 1943 at which time William "Bill" Moss became the proprietor. Presently the Foremost Pharmacy is operated by Phyllis Mann.

**Fort Macleod.** The first pharmacist in Fort Macleod was John D. Higinbotham who came west to manage a pharmacy owned by Dr. Kennedy, on May 31 1884. Mr. Higinbotham believed this to be the first pharmacy in what is now Alberta. This business was soon taken over by A. W. Draper in 1885 or 1886 and named the Macleod Drug Store. Mr. Rennie B. Barnes was the next owner in 1888 and called it the Medical Hall Pharmacy. He was joined in 1911 by R. D. McNay and the business was then Barnes and McNay. Mr. McNay later became sole owner of McNay's Drug Store.

Philip Hodnett became owner of this historic pharmacy in 1949 and continues to operate it, now as Hodnett's Pharmacy.

The second drug store in Fort Macleod was the "People's Pharmacy" opened by A. W. Bleasdale in 1890 and he ran it until 1896. Arthur Y. Young then became the owner, calling it "The Rexall Drug Store". A. D. Ferguson took over this pharmacy in 1912 as Ferguson Rexall Drug. Mr. Clements followed Ferguson then Cecil Price became the next, and longest, owner from 1933 to 1971, of Price Rexall Drug.

The Dusyk Drug Mart followed in 1974 with Merv. Dusyk as proprietor. Finally Andy Mackay became the owner and after operating this pharmacy for several years, he closed it.

A third pharmacy was opened in 1954 by Andrew Mackay and Duane Kennedy. They named it Fort Pharmacy Ltd.. Andy Mackay became sole owner in 1966. Pharmacist Murray Mackay joined his father in 1972.

Ken Harris is the present owner, since May 1988, of Fort Value Drugs. Presently, the pharmacist at the Fort MacLeod Health Care Centre is Ronald J. Sandul.

**Fraserton.** G. E. Cottingham was listed in a 1920 business directory as having a "drug store" here. He was not registered with A.Ph.A..

**Gadsby.** Frederick James Long was a pharmacist in Gadsby at least as early as 1911. Hedley Hart bought this drug store in either 1913 or 1914 and operated it until 1934 when drought forced him to move to the greener pastures of Cochrane. A succession of men then kept a "patent medicine" retail store open and they included Messrs. Brubaker, Gibson, Young, Jordan and Fisher.

**Gleichen.** Albert Reginald Yates came to Gleichen in 1907 with a pharmacy licence issued by the North West Territories and had a drug store called the "Pioneer", then for many years, until at least 1945, operated as "Yates The Druggist". Mr. Yates was an active citizen of the community and was District Deputy Grand Master for Alberta Masonic Lodges 1911-1912. E. F. Thurston, pharmacist, worked for Mr. Yates in 1908.

Dr. George H. Farquarson arrived in Gleichen in 1908 and had the Gleichen Pharmacy. This store was destroyed by fire in 1923 and rebuilt in 1924. Herbert Cecil James was registered by A.Ph.A. as being in Gleichen in 1928. Jack Markle was in Gleichen at some time between Mr. James and Mr. Larsen. Gordon L. Larsen, a 1947 pharmacy graduate, had the Gleichen Pharmacy until 1953 when he left to live and practise in Brooks. Edward Summers is presently the pharmacist at the Gleichen Clinic Pharmacy.

The Siksika Pharmacy is in business on the Blackfoot Indian Reserve nearby to Gleichen and has been staffed by Gordon Morck, Elaine Rankine, Edward Summers and John LeBoldus.

**Granum.** Dr. W. G. Anderson and Dr. Dan McMillan opened the first drug store in Granum in 1908. The ownership of this pharmacy passed into the hands of Dr. P. A. "Doc. Percy" Holmes who, with Dr. Amos Bradford, operated this business until 1925.



Soon after he graduated, Gerald C. Shapter bought this business and owned the Granum Pharmacy for the next four years. Gerry was an active town booster. While in Granum, he had an apprentice, Harold Henker, who also became Gerry's brother-in-law when Gerry married Frances Henker. In 1929, Shapter sold the pharmacy to Henry E. "Harry" Malone who operated it until he closed it in 1940.

**Grassy Lake.** Two early pharmacists in Grassy Lake were J. D. McCrostie and William M. Marshall. McCrostie was also an optician. He died in 1911 at age 35. The dates of their arrival is uncertain and either may have been the first pharmacist in the town. William Marshall and his brother opened Marshall Drug and Jewelry Store, possibly in 1909. Mr. Marshall practised pharmacy here until the years of the Great War and until a cyclone destroyed his home and his business. Mr. Marshall was later a well known pharmacist of Strathmore, High River and Calgary.

Dr. B. E. Tugham (non. reg) had a business listing as druggist in 1911.

Dr. C. B. Munro was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1916 and 1917 before moving to Bow Island. J. Beverly White was in Grassy Lake 1916 before moving to Taber.

**Highland Park.** George E. Kennedy had a drug store here, circa 1914.

**High River.** Dr. G. D. Stanley had the first drug store in High River, opening prior to 1906. His High River Drug Store also housed the telephone exchange.

However there may have been a pharmacy service, if not a pharmacy, prior to 1906. Pharmacist C. A. Wallace of Calgary visited High River and Okotoks with a horse drawn van from which he sold drug store merchandise. He may have also filled prescriptions from his wagon as his prescription label exists giving all three locations as his address. Wallace was established in Calgary in 1902.

In 1908, the Medical Hall (a drug store) was opened with A. H. Shephard as manager. Mr. Wm. Rolls was a later manager. Dr. Stanley appears to have been the owner of this outlet as well. Pharmacists G. R. McCorqudale and Austin Francis worked for Dr. Stanley at some time.

By 1910 or 1911, there were name changes as the Austin Francis Drug Store and the Alberta Drug and Book Co. with G. R. McCorqudale as manager, appeared and the former two drug store names disappeared. The dates suggest there may have been some connection. By 1914, McCorqudale appears to have left Alberta Drug and Book and had his own pharmacy under his own name. In 1916, Alberta Book and Drug announced they had taken over the

McCorqudale business when Mr. McCorqudale enlisted in the armed forces.

In Sept. 1917, Messrs. Sidney L. Eversfield and William Blair took over the Alberta Drug and Book business and renamed it Eversfield and Blair. Eversfield left in 1918 and the pharmacy was then the Blair Drug and Stationery Co..

William M. Marshall, on July 28th 1923, announced the opening of his new drug store in High River, bearing his name. Mr. Marshall stayed in High River for many years. His sons Ross and Grant and his grandson Ted were later to be well known in Alberta drug circles.

Mr. Arthur Creighton appeared in High River in the early 1920's when he took over the Blair Drug Co., renaming it Creighton's Drug.

The paths that the Marshall and Creighton businesses then took may now, more easily, be traced: The McDermid Drug Co. of Calgary, purchased the Creighton business in 1928, adding it to their growing chain. Charles and Betty Laycraft, both pharmacists, bought the McDermid business and renamed it Laycraft Drug Store, operating it from 1941 to 1950. The next owners, Harvey Houseman and Larry Northey, renamed this business the High River Pharmacy. Mr. Houseman moved to Innisfail and Mr. Northey became sole owner. In 1963, Don Bergin purchased this business and ran it until his death in 1986. His daughter, Leslie Bergin, has carried on the business with Brenda Sterenberg as pharmacist manager of the High River I.D.A. Pharmacy.

In 1945, Wm. Marshall sold his business to George Wilkinson. The Wilkinson Drug Store was in operation as such until Fraser Currie purchased it in 1962 and as Currie Drug it is still in business under the present pharmacist/manager, Bonnie Lissel, daughter of Fraser Currie.

In 1979, a third pharmacy, the Sadler Pharmacy Ltd., opened with Douglas Sadler as pharmacist/owner.

The High River Hospital and Nursing Home pharmacy has recently been staffed by Donald W. Manson, Sylvia L. Johnson and Todd Gehring.

Some pharmacists who also practised in High River, include: Sidney M. Ross, E. F. Thurston, Anna Hole Blackberg, Cecil Price, H. A. "Duke" Ferguson, Mitch Dobbie, Nell Estabrook, John Butterfield, Grant Sanders, Went and Vern Neeley, Burpee Steeves, Arnold Cowan, Hugh Olson, Oren Olson, Ken McDermid, Lynne Hoff and Helen Tharle.

**Hussar.** Edgar N. Stiles was an early pharmacist in Hussar, operating one of the Stiles The Druggist branch stores which were headquartered in Bassano. Edgar Stiles was later in business in Viking. The years in Hussar are not exactly known but a prescription exists in the pharmacy archives dated 1930.

Halvard Peter Stock was also in practice in Hussar, possibly as a manager



Robert John Fowler at right 1911

for the Stiles Store. He too was later in Viking then had his own pharmacy in Wetaskiwin.

Anna Blackberg (nee Hole), a 1930 graduate in pharmacy, had apprenticed with Harold Waterbury in Duchess. She opened a pharmacy in Hussar, date unknown.

**Irricana.** Dr. William Grosert Fowler was registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association as the pharmacist in Irricana in 1911. His older brother, Robert John "Bert" Fowler was the manager of the store. When the railway went through Acme, rather than Irricana, they moved to Acme in 1916. Dr. Hardin ran the pharmacy in the early 1920's. There is no pharmacy in Irricana at present.

**Irvine.** Dr. Earl Stewart Bolton was registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in the early in 1913 before he moved to Medicine Hat. It is not known if he operated a retail pharmacy.

Mr. Hedwig Koesling (non. reg.) was listed in the business directory of 1920 as having a "drug store"

**Jenner.** Clifford W. F. Gaudette is thought to have been the first pharmacist in Jenner, perhaps in 1918. He is also believed to have practised in Warner, Granum and Calgary. Edgar Stiles managed a drug store here as a branch of the Bassano Stiles The Druggist.

**Lake Louise.** Mr. Duncan, who had opened a drug store in Silver City, also opened one at Holt City, a C.P.R. station and community, also known as Laggan, which later became better known as Lake Louise. The year or years would likely have occurred between 1884 and 1889.

A "drug store" was built here and owned by Jim Brewster, who is not thought to have been a pharmacist. The exact dates are not known to us but it is reported that they were during the prohibition era. A physician was in attendance.

**Langdon.** Frank William Ham, who held licences from both the North West Territories and Alberta pharmaceutical Associations, was registered at Langdon. Dr. M. C. Salmon was also registered here by the A.Ph.A. during the years 1913 to 1916, then moving to Calgary. Dr. Wright also had a drug store in Langdon but the dates are unknown to us.

**Lethbridge.** Egerton J. R. Walton built the first drug store in Lethbridge in the summer of 1885 and called it Apothecaries Hall. Walton had already been in business in Medicine Hat and now returned for another business opportunity there. In September 1885, John D. Higinbotham purchased Walton's lot and building for \$1,900. Higinbotham occupied and stocked this drug store 2 Oct. 1885 and opened for business 7 Oct. 1885, retaining the name Apothecaries Hall. Walton would have been considered the first pharmacist in Lethbridge had he opened but it appears that he could not have opened as Higinbotham had to stock the store. Thus, Higinbotham is the prime candidate to be named as the first pharmacist in Lethbridge, an honour he had also held in Fort MacLeod.

Higinbotham deserves special mention in any account of pharmacists in Lethbridge or Alberta. He was the first president of the newly formed Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1911 and held licence No. 1. Higinbotham acted as the first examiner of applicants under the new Pharmacy Act. He served a second term as president of the A.Ph.A. in 1919-1920. He was later a member of the Senate of the University of Alberta then a Governor of the Alberta Ladies College. This outstanding citizen of Lethbridge, as stated, had the first phar-

macy there and also a wholesale business. In 1885 he established the first Sunday School in the town which developed into Knox Church, of which he became senior Elder. He acted as Sunday School Superintendent continuously for 37 years, an Alberta record. Higinbotham became Postmaster of Lethbridge in 1886 with the office in his store and remained as such until 1910. He was chairman of the Lethbridge school board, Coroner for the North West Territories, Vice President of the Board of Trade, President of the Citizen's League, a director of the Y.M.C.A., President of the Lawn and Tennis Club, the District Deputy Grand Master of the Masonic Order in 1897 at age 33. This talented man was also a poet and capable author.

Some well known pharmacists dispensed at Higinbotham's including: W. S. Galbraith, Frank Hedley, Sydney Jackson, Thomas McCready, and Alexander Sutherland. Among his apprentices were Ira C. Fletcher and Harold E. Waterbury.

Harold Waterbury recalls his days at Higinbotham's quite clearly. Both John and his brother Arthur wore striped trousers and cut-a-way coats at work. These men had a coffee or tea break for the staff once or twice daily, an unusual event in the early 1920's, perhaps a "first". Sometimes lady customers would take afternoon tea with the two gentlemen but staff did not take part at such times.

There were soon other pharmacies in the town. By 1888 the Lethbridge Drug Company was opened by two lumber dealers who had R. B. Barnes as pharmacist and manager. This pharmacy was also referred to as the R. B. Barnes and Company drug store. Barnes later owned a drug store in Fort MacLeod. Walter S. Galbraith came to Lethbridge in 1891 as an assistant pharmacist at Higinbotham's. He then studied and graduated in medicine. Galbraith became a councillor and then mayor of Lethbridge. E. C. Wilson opened a pharmacy then this business was taken over by Joshua Little and W. G. Cleveland, who operated out of "Medical Hall". Cleveland had been a Staff-Sergeant in charge of the N.W.M.P. hospital in Lethbridge. By 1893, the business became known as W. G. Cleveland and Co. until Cleveland left town in 1895 and Dr. L. G. DeVeber took it over under the old name of Lethbridge Drug Company. It was located on what is now 5 St. E.. Little and Cleveland had stocked a new game called "Crokinole", reported in the newspaper as "all the rage". John D. Higinbotham countered by bringing in something new called "Tiddly Winks". The Lethbridge Drug Company changed hands several times between 1888 and 1897, then James Nicoll managed the business until at least 1906.

1906 saw the appearance of the People's Drug and Stationery Co. at what is now 240-13 St. N.. It was operated by W. P. Alexander and he was assisted, in

1908, by William Henry McCaffrey. At about this time the Johnston's Drug Store was opened by Joseph James Johnston, location unknown. A Mr. J. J. Johnstone located in Calgary shortly after this period and might have been the same person. The Alberta Drug and Book Company had a store at 317-5 St. S. operated by G. H. Ripley, which opened 1908 and was managed by Alvin B. Ripley in 1909.

In 1909, pharmacist Thomas H. McCready and Robert Sage, a printer, operated the Red Cross Drug and Book Company store at 614-3 Ave. S. Frank Hedley bought the Alberta Drug & Book Co. store at 317-5 St. S. and renamed it The Frank Hedley Drug Co.. The Kenny & Allin Company Ltd. was operated by John Kenny and Norman Allin at 314- 5 St. S., probably the former Lethbridge Drug Co. store. Kenny served two terms as alderman, in 1895 and 1896. Also in 1901, John D. Higinbotham opened a branch called the North Ward store with Mr. McCrostie as manager.

Sydney Jackson, a brother of famed Group of Seven artist A. Y. Jackson, left the employ of John Higinbotham in 1910 to open a store at 622-3 Ave. S. in partnership with Joseph J. Johnstone, once a clerk at Higinbotham's but more recently owner of the Johnston Drug Store referred to above. It was called Jackson & Co., Druggists, but was commonly referred to as Jackson and Johnston. By March 1911 the name was changed to Jackson and Cope.

1914 saw Wm. H. McCaffrey buy out W. P. J. Alexander's People's Drug Store at 240-13 St. N.. Arthur Higinbotham joined his brother John as pharmacist, business manager and purchasing agent for the firm.

A. M. Sutherland was a manager, in 1915, of the Higinbotham store which was called The Rexall Store by this time.

In 1918, Ernest Ball Stokes bought out the Kenny & Allin business as Allin, the pharmacist, left to enter medical school and Kenny, an accountant, chose to sell.

The Great War was over. Wm. H. McCaffrey moved his People's Drug Store to 414-13 St N. and Sydney Jackson moved his now named S. Jackson Dispensing Chemist, to 401-5 St. S. The Husband Drug Company operated on 5 St. S. opposite the King's Theatre. Herbert Husband came to Lethbridge in 1916 and stayed until at least 1921 and was later at the Highland's Drug Store in Edmonton.

In 1923, T. H. McCready moved his McCready's Limited, Red Cross Drug Store to 622-3 Ave. S. Dr. Stacpoole and Clarence W. Pickup, who were in business in Cardston, opened a branch store in North Lethbridge with H. E. Waterbury, as yet an apprentice, assisting.

J. D. Higinbotham & Company Limited opened a pharmacy in the new Marquis Hotel building in 1928. Frank Hedley moved to a corner location at 4 Ave. & 6 St. S..



Frank Hedley at graduation  
from O. C. P., 1903.  
(photo courtesy of City of  
Lethbridge Archives and  
Records Management)

On 30 April 1929, J. D. Higinbotham & Company Ltd. and the branch store in the Marquis Hotel, were sold to A. M. Sutherland Drug Co. Ltd.. Mr. Higinbotham retired to his home town of Guelph Ontario thus ending 45 years of service in southern Alberta.

In the 1930's, several new names appeared in Lethbridge which became well known in pharmacy circles. In 1935, Robert J. Kitson arrived from Maple Creek Sask., and bought Hedley's store at 525-4 Ave. S., renaming it Kitson's Pharmacy Ltd.. Kitson served the city as a Councillor in 1946, and later as mayor. In 1936, A. C. (Andy) Anderson, who had apprenticed at nearby Champion, came to Kitson's as a newly graduated pharmacist. Anderson later became Lethbridge's longest serving mayor, holding office from 1968 to 1986.

Two of W. H. McCaffrey's children, John S. (Jack) and Dorothy, became pharmacists. In 1938 Jack opened a People's Drug Store at 310-6 St. S. Later, Dorothy was to be pharmacy director at the Calgary General Hospital. Another son of a pharmacist, John E. (Jack) Stokes, took over from his father in 1939 and operated the Stokes Drug Company Ltd. (The Drug-Book Store) at 314-5 St. S..

Many frontier towns seem to have had a period of development of which one cannot be too proud and this was also the case in Lethbridge. According to former delivery boys, four of whom were interviewed, a lucrative part of the Lethbridge drug trade from about 1908 to 1944, was the filling of questionable



W. F. McGill, Calgary, T. H. McCready, Lethbridge, Ira C. Fletcher, Magrath, receive gold spoons in 1961 for 50 years in the A.Ph A.

narcotic prescriptions. One early pharmacist said that he considered Lethbridge to be the wickedest city in the wickedest province in Canada. There were many "Fancy Houses" in the early city and illegal drugs were apparently used there to some extent. However Lethbridge overcame that early stigma to become a fine city with reputable pharmacies.

The decade of the 1940's saw a few changes and some new pharmacists practising in the city. J. S. (Jack) McCaffrey moved his store to 331-5 St. S. and changed the name from People's Drug Store to McCaffrey's Drugs. Pharmacists Merv. Daum and Arthur H. Ward were dispensing and Doug. Schoening was apprenticing at McCready's. In 1944, George Draffin came from Saskatchewan and entered into partnership with Sydney Jackson at 401-5 St. S.. By 1947 Jackson Drug became Draffin Drug when George Draffin bought out Sydney Jackson. In the same year, George R. Willoughby in association with McDermid Drug of Calgary, purchased the A. M. Sutherland Marquis Hotel store and called it Willoughby McDermid Drug Company. A. C. Anderson opened the Medical Dental Pharmacy at 434-7 St. S., the first dispensary to be operated in conjunction with a local medical clinic. In 1949, George H. Munroe opened Munroe's Pharmacy at 540-13 St. S.. It was later named the Village Pharmacy.





George Willoughby

Wm. P. Skelton and his son William Skelton started the 1950's off by opening their York Pharmacy Ltd. in the York Hotel at 255-13 St. N.. In the next year, Oswald C. Stubbs opened Stubbs Pharmacy Ltd at 1509-9 Ave. S. Royal Drug, a branch of the Stokes Drug. Co. Ltd. opened at 617-4 Ave. S under Thordy Kolbinson and was in business until 1960. In 1954, Willoughby McDermid Drug became Willoughby Drug, later the Marquis Pharmacy, under pharmacists George and Jean Willoughby. McCaffrey Drug closed its 331-5 St. S. unit and Jack McCaffrey took over his father's store at 414-13 St. N.. The El Rancho Drug was opened at 534-Mayor Magrath Drive by Alwyn Griffiths or Hazel M. Bennett, both of whom operated it then it was owned by David B. Thomson from 1957 to 1959. Bonnydale Drugs, initially called Brewerton Drugs, was opened by Ted E. Brewerton in 1956, at 1418-17 St. S. This pharmacy was taken over by Douglas W. Steed in 1959, with Enoch F. Berrisford as manager.

In 1961, Boyd B. Tucker opened his Boyd's Pharmacy Ltd. at 1644-Mayor Magrath Drive. William (Bill) Skelton opened a dispensary at 424-Mayor Magrath Drive in the Campbell Clinic. Skelton's York Pharmacy was purchased by Lorne Snook and renamed York Pharmacy (Lethbridge) Limited. Employee Peter Pisko was listed as president. Candy Cane Drugs was opened under Hazel M. Bennett at 1017-Mayor Magrath Drive in the Park Plaza Hotel



George and Rodney Draffin

building. Tamblyn's (Western) Ltd. opened a branch in Lethbridge at 457-Mayor Magrath Drive in the Glendale Mall. Thriftway Drug was opened by Douglas W. Steed at 702-13 St. N. El Rancho Drug closed in 1963 when Al Haysom went to Kitson's Pharmacy. Max E. Baines managed McCready's Ltd. at 614-3 Ave. S. then the name was changed to McCready-Baines Pharmacy Ltd. in the 1964 directory. George Draffin and his son Rodney A. Draffin bought the York Pharmacy from Lorne Snook and later operated it under the name Draffin's Pharmacies Limited until it closed in 1973. Lakeview Drug was opened by pharmacists Edward K. (Ted) and Iris Richardson at 1017-Mayor Magrath Drive. A. C. Anderson opened a branch at 1609-9 Ave. S. in the Bigelow-Fowler Clinic and called it the Medical Dental Pharmacy Ltd.. In 1968, the Draffins opened a dispensary at the corner of 6 Ave. & 6 St. S. in the Haig Medical Building. The same year, A. C. Anderson moved his 7 St. S. dispensary into one unit at the Bigelow-Fowler Clinic location. The Village Pharmacy was taken over by Ted Richardson and operated until it was closed in 1974.

The decade of the 1970's saw Westminster Drug opened at 425-13 St N. under Frank Otrahalek. The business was taken over by John Tkachenko, who later operated Tkachenko Pharmacy Ltd. in Milk River.. Peter M. Kooy, who had been working with Ozzie Stubbs since 1961, managed Stubb's Pharmacy at 1506-9 Ave. S then a year or two later Kooy purchased the business and renamed it Stubb's Pharmacy (1972) Ltd.. Shopper's Drug Mart No. 308 opened at Centre Village Mall under Ernest R. Hendricks. By the 1980's this unit was being operated in conjunction with W. A. Miller Pharmacy Ltd., Wayne A. Miller, Associate/Owner. Also in 1972, Tamblyn's Drug opened a branch in the College Shopping Mall. 20 Ave. S., under David M. Cullen. Wood's Dispensary Ltd. was opened in 1974 by Kent E. Wood at 2931-20 Ave. S. and Super City Drug opened in College Shopping Mall under David M.



Pharmacists Ted and  
Iris Richardson

Cullen. In 1975, White Cross Drug opened under Frances Yip at 318-6 St. S.. Rodney A. Draffin took over the Draffin Pharmacies upon his father's retirement and opened a branch in the Lethbridge Centre Mall at 410-5 St. S.. Norbridge Pharmacy was started in 1977 by Ted Richardson with John Tkachenko dispensing. The same year Ted Richardson opened the Westside Value Drug Mart at 170-Columbia Blvd. W.. The closing of the decade also saw the closing of three pharmacies; McCaffrey's at 414-13 St. N., the Marquis Pharmacy and White Cross Drugs and soon Westminster Drug (Super S) closed as did the Stokes Drug at 314-5 St. S..

Boots Drug Stores had taken over the Tamblyn Drug chain in 1977 and now operated an outlet at 1702-23 St. N. under Ernest R. Hendricks and by 1980 also had a pharmacy at 9-College Shopping Mall operated under David M. Cullen. However, in 1988, Boots The Chemists Ltd. withdrew from Western Canada. William Skelton sold his dispensary in the Campbell Clinic. Joseph C. Claremont renamed it Skelton's Prescription Pharmacy (1983) Ltd.. In 1984, Fletcher's Dispensary was opened at 414-13 St N. by Gail French Fletcher. Ted and Iris Richardson moved Lakeview Value Drug Mart to 1131-Mayor Magrath Drive. In 1986, Stafford Pharmacy was opened at 1475-St. Edward Blvd. by Igor W. Shashkin. Shoppers Drug Mart expanded into the Zeller's Mall (later Magrath Market Place) under Doran Perry. Food and department stores were also adding pharmacies and in 1987 Canada Safeway Ltd. did so at 1616-Mayor Magrath Drive and at 721-3 Ave S.. Woolco

Department store had a pharmacy at 2025-Mayor Magrath Drive. In 1988, Peter M. Kooy opened a second store of Stubbs Pharmacy at 30 Jerry Potts Blvd. in West Lethbridge.

Many of the changes discussed above indicate the trends in shopping patterns away from the downtown area and older trading areas to newer districts and shopping malls, occurring in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Another trend was to see fewer independently owned pharmacies and more giant and chain stores.

Lethbridge and District Druggists had an Association and later a Pharmaceutical Society. During a period in the late 1930's and early 1940's at least, the six existing pharmacies in Lethbridge exhibited an enviable degree of cooperation by rotating hours of opening so that only one pharmacy had to be open evenings, Wednesday afternoon and Sundays.

Lethbridge hospitals are now well served by pharmacists but in the early years, dispensing was done by perhaps one pharmacist on staff or at times without one. For many years, there was only one pharmacist at the St. Michaels Hospital. Sister Francis Theresa Hergott was the first, acting as pharmacist in 1931 and 1932. Sister M. Immaculata Fraser was pharmacist from 1932 to 1937 then again 1968 and 1969. She was also the founding president of the Maritimes Hospital Pharmacists Association and received the President's Award in 1939. Sister M. Eulalia Delaney, although not a pharmacist, dispensed from 1937 to 1943. A long serving pharmacist at St. Michaels was Sister M. Marguerita MacNeil from 1943 to 1968. Harry Nagata has been director of this pharmacy from 1967 and now has a staff of four pharmacists. Mr. Nagata also is director of pharmacy at the Auxiliary Hospital.

The pharmacy licence at the Galt Hospital was once held by Dr. D. B. Fowler, who had also qualified as a pharmacist. Ruth Becker, later as Mrs. R. B. Hughes, was pharmacist at the Galt from perhaps the latter 1920's to the early 1940's. Betty Welcher, later as Mrs. Riddel, served from 1950 until 1958 during which time the Galt became the Municipal. Sister Marguerita may have dispensed here for a time in this period with assistant Miss. Ramage. Al Lister was the pharmacist from circa 1962 until 1966 followed by Stan Lissack from 1966 to 1969. From 1969, the pharmacist director of the now Lethbridge Regional Hospital pharmacy department has been John P. Brown who has a staff of nine other pharmacists in the department.

Pharmacists of Lethbridge have served their colleagues well. No less than six presidents of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association have been Lethbridge pharmacists, namely; John D. Higinbotham, Sydney Jackson, A. M. Sutherland, W. P. Skelton, George Draffin and Edward K. Richardson. As well, some Lethbridge pharmacists served on city council and three were elected mayor of the city.

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**Little Chicago.** see Royalties.

**Little New York.** see Longview.

**Lomond.** R. H. Hughes practised pharmacy in Lomond circa 1921, after being in business in Calgary. He later settled in Claresholm. There are reports that R. Roy Saunders was registered as at Lomond in 1917 and that Dr. J. Stewart was involved with pharmacy here.

**Longview.** M. Dobbie, a 1928 graduate in pharmacy, practised in Blackie, Longview then Pincher Creek. We are unsure of his dates in Longview. Hal Roach is reported as having been in business here. George Morrison, who had been at Blackie and Oyen, was in Longview 1938 and 1939 at least. While Morrison was in business here, a second drug store was opened, during the oil boom, by Noel A. Farrow, who called it Farrow Drug No. 3. It existed briefly from 20 April 1938 to 6 May 1939. Managers at Farrows included W. J. Bathgate and R. Cecil Menzies. Menzies recalled being rotated among the Farrow stores on a two week basis. A Mr. R. Dobson, whose nickname to some was "Dobbie", also worked in pharmacy, having served an apprenticeship in Calgary. He too worked in the oilfields but is not to be confused with Mr. M. Dobbie.

**Lundbreck.** A. C. Johnston (non. reg.), was here with a "Drug store" from at least 1911 to 1914.

**Magrath.** Dr. C. W. Sanders built the first drug store here in 1903, in partnership with R. H. McDuffie of Raymond. They called it McDuffie and Sanders. Dr. Sanders became sole owner about 1905 or 1906 and renamed the business Magrath Pharmacy Ltd..

Ira Fletcher worked with and studied under Dr. Sanders and also spent some time with J. D. Higinbotham in Lethbridge, commuting by bicycle. When



Class of 1937, Golden Anniversary  
back (l to r): Chas. Cameron, Nyal  
Fletcher, Charlie Laycraft.  
front (l to r): Bill McCalla, Betty  
Laycraft, Bill Mitchell.

qualified, he bought the business from Dr. Sanders in 1912. Nyal Fletcher, son of Ira, served his apprenticeship with his father and joined the business after graduating in 1937. His name was taken from the Nyal Pharmaceutical Co.. Glenn A. Fletcher is the third generation Fletcher to operate the Magrath Pharmacy Ltd., joining the firm in 1965. Other pharmacists who have been in Magrath include: Wallace Johnson and Douglas B. Fowler, both of whom apprenticed with Mr. Fletcher. Fowler later became a physician.

Ricks S. Smith is pharmacist at the Magrath General Hospital.

**Manyberries.** Dr. J. H. Duncan was registered here with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1917 and 1918 at least.

**Medicine Hat** (*by Derek West, Don King, J. K. Penley*). Drs. Butcher and Haig opened the first drug store in Medicine Hat in 1883. The name Butcher has been spelled also as Beutcher and as Boettcher. There is no record of a pharmacist being employed at this pharmacy.

The first pharmacist known to be in Medicine Hat was Egerton J. R. Walton who arrived from Ontario in 1883 or early 1884 and opened a drug store in a tent. He soon moved his Walton's Drug Store into a building on South Railway St., next to a brewery. Walton is thought to have been the first pharmacist, other than a physician, to practise in what is now Alberta. At that time Medicine Hat was in the District of Assiniboine. Walton's store was destroyed by fire in Nov. 1885 while he was setting up another drug store in Lethbridge. He returned to Medicine Hat and bought the business of Drs. Butcher and Haig in 1886 and in 1887 added a soda fountain.

Albert J. Hughes, who had been in Banff, is seen in a photo standing outside

of the City Drug Store in Medicine Hat dated 1885, but Walton is said to be the owner.

In 1887, Dr. Olver opened a drug store and hired a Mr. McDonald, formerly of Walton's, to be manager. Dr. Olver died Aug. 1891. A Dr. Bannatyne (also spelled Ballatyne), opened a drug store around this period but it later closed due to lack of business.

In 1889, Albert J. Hughes opened a drug store and had it until 1891. Hughes was also a jockey and owned race horses. He remained to live and work in Medicine Hat for many years. Hughes' name did not appear on the Register of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, so he may not have been a pharmacist.

Dr. J. G. Calder bought Walton's store and Walton became a rancher. Another report states that Albert Hughes was the buyer. It is possible that Hughes managed the store for Calder as they had both come from Banff where they may have known one another. Some excitement was caused one day when a cow wandered into Calder's Drug Store. The floor collapsed and the cow fell into the basement.

Walton's son Harold, age 10, was caught in a blizzard and died Nov. 1892. Calder died in 1909.

Owen H. Bott was in the "Hat" in 1893 but went to Calgary in 1894.

After the turn of the century, Medicine Hat grew rapidly and became a fine city. We will attempt to show the progressive ownership of the several pharmacies that were established.

Prior to 1900, Donald Black opened a drug store which was later purchased by Charles Pingle. Pingle Drug and Book was on 2 St. S.E.. Pharmacist Percy Yeo joined Mr. Pingle and later became owner when Mr. Pingle died. Pingle had been a Captain in the army in the 1914-1918 war, was an active politician and became an M.L.A. and Cabinet Minister. Yeo had good rapport with the salesmen and often treated them to drinks and/or dinner. Pranks were common and one time Ed. Kadlec and Gerry Shapter backed a car up to the drug store and turned a live pig loose. Rexall salesman, George Law, stated that Yeo was one of the hardest workers he ever met in the drug business. This business was sold to the Liggett Drug Co. and Don King stayed on to be the manager. In 1955 it became a Tamblyn Drug Store and in 1957, Derek West became manager. This business closed in 1972.

Horace Pork Cosons had a drug store which was sold to Pingle's when Cosons died in the 1930's. This store had a pound of powdered Opium legitimately carried in stock and on its narcotic register. Pingle Drug had quite a time getting rid of it but this was accomplished one day when three officers of the R.C.M.P. came to Medicine Hat and destroyed it for them. This may have caused some lethargy among the fish downstream and even into Hudson's Bay.



Don King does some post-graduate dispensing outside his Liggett store during the Medicine Hat Stampede.

Bertram F. Souch had been hired by Albert Hughes in 1900 then it appears that Souch opened his own drug store about 1903 on 3 St. S.E.. This store had the first Co-op telephone exchange for Medicine Hat in 1903. Brother Gordon P. Souch also practised in Medicine Hat.

Frank Boylan bought this business in 1915 and in 1925 moved it to the corner of 6 Ave. & 3 St. S.E.. Brother Jack H. Boylan joined the business in 1930. Jack left to practise in Foremost from 1933 to 1943 but returned when Frank died. The store was moved to 607-2 St S.E. due to a fire. E. J. Williams was a long time pharmacist employee here.

Jack Boylan died in 1950 and his wife Ena carried on with manager Kent Rogers then partners Gordon Buchanan and Cliff Wright. They moved back to the original location in 1968. Son James R. Boylan graduated in 1968 and took over the business in 1973. This business is now known as Boylan Drug Mart No. 1.

A Boylan Drug Mart No. 2 was opened on 8 St. N.W. in Dec. 1973 then No. 3 store was started on 7 St. S.W. in June 1978 by buying the former Belsher Pharmacy. A fourth outlet was opened Oct. 1979 at nearby Redcliff then in 1986 a fifth drug store was opened on Dunsmore Rd. S.E. Pharmacy managers have included: Timothy S. Cowan, Robert E. Townsend, Darrell D. Jesse, Dugald D. Cameron, Joanne M. Brazzell, Catherine A. Almond and Stanley K. Reigel, Donna Goldade, David Yorgason and Melodie Smith, Neil Devchand and



Michele Nadeau. The chain is administered by J. R. Boylan and Lyle Garrecht. A sixth outlet has been opened in the Medical Arts Building.

Medicine Hat's oldest existing drug store may be MacKenzie Drugs. This pharmacy was opened as a branch of Pingle's Drug with Norm MacKenzie and Hume Pingle in charge. The year was circa 1905 to 1910. Brock Duncan was a manager here. This business was purchased by Tom Slobodin in 1955 then he sold it to Miles Maughan who is assisted by Cliff Wright.

E. Morley Cawker had a drug store, at least in 1907 and probably longer, and this was the location that later became Haysom's.

In 1942, Haysom's Drug Store was operated by Idris Haysom and was located on the corner of South Railway St. and 2 St. S.E.. Due to a new railway underpass which changed traffic patterns, he moved it to 3 St. S.E. in 1958. Gordon "Buck" Buchanan became a partner in this business. It closed in 1976. I. J. Haysom was president of the Kiwanis Club in 1950.

The Aberdeen Pharmacy had been owned by B. F. Souch. He sold it to A. "Bert" Coffin who, in 1940, sold it to J. Gibbs. Art Waller has also been an owner and he sold to Sam Titcher. This pharmacy was closed in 1981 but was re-opened by Vic Kalinka.

In 1951, Fred Sept opened Sept's Drug Store on N. Railway St. It later moved to 7 St. and Division Ave. S.E.. This store closed in 1982.

Duncan Drugs was opened by Brock Duncan after he left as manager of McKenzie Drug. In 1956 he took on Harold Brooks as a partner. They opened a second store called Crescent Heights Pharmacy in 1959. They were later joined by James Merrick, Derek West in 1963 and Ernest Ozem in 1968. Vern Boldick and Russ McElroy were assistant pharmacists here as well. The Haysom-Buchanan store was purchased then also the Brook's Pharmacy in Brooks Alberta. The Duncan Drug closed in 1988. Crescent Heights is the only store from the group that remains today, with Ernest Ozem as owner, and it is the oldest operating pharmacy in the city that remains in its original location. McKenzie Drug is older but is not in its original location.

1961 saw the opening of Belsher's Pharmacy by Hugh Belsher at 407-7 St. S.W. where it still exists. Hugh Belsher's pharmacy was the first, or one of the first, retail drug store in Alberta which never sold cigarettes or tobacco. C. J. "Chuck" Meagher was an assistant here and was also dispensing at the hospital pharmacy. He was mayor of the city and later the first Canadian president of the Medicine Hat College. Hugh Belsher sold his business to James Boylan in 1978.

Crestwood Pharmacy was opened in 1962 by Tom Slobodin, this being his second store. Manager is Norm Chuen assisted by Cliff Ginn.

In 1972, The Woolworth Pharmacy became the first drug outlet in Medicine

Hat to be in a department store. The first manager was Vic Kalinka. In 1981, Kathy Hammel became manager and is assisted by Vern Miner.

The Western Drug Mart was opened by Zane Pundyk in 1973 in the Southview Mall on 13 St. S.E.. It was sold to Randy Stevens in 1984. Jay Martin has been an assistant.

1974 saw the Medicine Hat Co-op Pharmacy locate on 13 St. S.E.. The first manager was Debbie Oikawa (nee Miklos), followed by Vic Kalinka assisted by Michele Carlson.

Zane's Drug Mart was originally known as Clinic Drug with Frank Vance as manager and was located on 4 St. S.E. It was Zane Pundyk's second location. He later moved it up to the hill on 7 St. S.E. and gave it its present name. Steve Chu was a pharmacist here.

Shopper's Drug Mart located in the Medicine Hat Mall on Dunsmore Rd. S.E.. Owner/manager is Jamie Raisbeck. Susan Lawrence, Leanne Weisgerber, Linda Raisbeck and Brenda Legere have been assistants.

West Family Pharmacy, opened in 1982, owned and operated by Derek West, until its closure in 1985.

In 1986, Safeway Pharmacy located in Medicine Hat Mall on Dunsmore St.. The manager is Greg Buekert and assistant manager is Russell Quinn.

Stevens Dispensary was opened in 1987 by Randy Stevens at 809-Bullivant Cr. S.W.. Managers include Mark Heninger and Jay Martin.

Carry Drive Dispensary opened in 1990 with manager Steve Chu.

In the early days, hours of business were not agreed upon by Medicine Hat druggists and were used competitively. Percy Yeo, for example, would remain open until nearly 11:00 PM most nights but would vary the hour thus frustrating his competitor down the street, Frank Boylan, who wouldn't close until Yeo did. When Liggett's bought Pingle's, president of Liggett's, Mr. Waldruff, called a meeting of the retailers and convinced them of the merit of more sensible hours. Thus, a rotating system was set up for evening, Sunday and holiday closing hours which were 9 to 9 daily and two early and two later hours on Sundays. There has been a very satisfactory association of retail druggists in Medicine Hat but we do not have a date of its origin, unless it was at the time referred to above, nor the formal title of the group. Redcliff pharmacists were included in the group. They met once each month and each pharmacist took a turn at being president for a one or two year term. They had social events with spouses included and an annual bonspiel with local physicians with whom there was excellent rapport other than perhaps that the druggists seem to end up paying all the bills. Once in a while there was a golf tournament. A system of rotating days and hours of closing worked satisfactorily for some years but ended in 1973 when the Western Drug Mart refused to participate. It was at

about this time that the association effectively ended. The Medicine Hat Society was formed but there just wasn't the same interest. It was a sad ending to what some had called the best Druggists Association in Alberta.

At one time, Medicine Hat had the only hospital between Winnipeg and Vancouver. At first, dispensing was done by physicians, particularly Dr. S. F. McEwen, who had had a drug store at Alderston. An early pharmacist at the hospital was Ruth Becker (later Mrs. R. B. Hughes). For several years, retail pharmacist Don King helped dispense on a part day basis.

The Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Pharmacy is now staffed by manager Larry A. Legare and pharmacists Kelly Lamborn, Joyce Nichi, Susan Howlett and Barbara Boulet.

The following pharmacists gave Medicine Hat as their address in the period from 1912 to 1921: G. C. Richardson, W. H. Pingle, John C. Mills, J. B. Godfrey, J. Wesley Fahrner, W. J. Douglas, John Mikkell, G. F. Cunliffe and W. A. Cory. In 1928, Harmon Shipley and George H. Stewart were registered here then in 1939, E. R. W. McKay.

**Midnapore.** Samuel William Shaw, a pioneer here, although registered with A.Ph.A., is not thought to have practised pharmacy in Canada. George W. Edmonds was registered by A.Ph.A. as in Calgary in 1921 but later gave his address as Midnapore. C. A. Wallace of Calgary travelled by horse and wagon as far as Okotoks and High River, offering the services of a pharmacist circa 1902. As he must have passed through Midnapore, it is possible that the small community had some access to medicines at that time.

**Milk River.** William W. MacDonald is thought to have opened the first drug store here circa 1909. He sold this business in 1916. Dr. G. N. Giles has also been said to have had the first drug store here but as his registration was dated 1918, he may have been a subsequent owner of the MacDonald business. Clarence Austin Bassett bought the Giles business and in 1935 renamed it the Bassett Corner Store. Mr. Bassett died in 1944 and Mrs. Bassett ran it with pharmacist assistants until it was sold to David Thomson who operated the Thomson Pharmacy from 1946 until 1956. M. Russell Quinn bought the Thomson Pharmacy then in 1979 John Tkachenko became new owner of Tkachenko Pharmacy. Hospital pharmacy service has been supplied by Rick Smith and Mark Harasymuk and presently by Richard T. Nelson.

**Milo.** W. Ross Douglass took over the post office in Milo in 1926, added a line of drugs and thus Milo had its first and only drug store. Mr. Douglass may have operated this business until 1929.

**Monarch.** Robert William Grieve, was registered by A.Ph.A. as at Monarch from 1911 until 1914 at least.

**Morrin.** John "Jack" McQueen, who had practised in Calgary and Bentley, operated a pharmacy in Morrin for one year only, in 1928.

**Mountain Park.** J. A. Urquart (non. reg.) listed his "drug store" in the business directory of 1928-1929.

**Munson.** Charles A. See was registered as at Munson in 1912. Dr. G. M. Gibson was the owner of a drug store here from 1914 to at least 1918. J. I. "Jake" Gibson also had a pharmacy here circa 1913 before going to Edmonton and Alliance. Mr. Switzer "formerly of Lacombe", managed the Gibson store from 1915 to at least 1918, probably while located in Drumheller. O. F. Dunford practised pharmacy in Munson from 1915 to at least 1917 then later established the Dunford Drug Co. in Calgary.

**Nanton.** W. A. (Art) Chisholm opened the Nanton Drug Store in 1904, Nanton's first. Mr. Chisholm also operated the telephone exchange from his store. Chisholm had a branch drug store at Cayley and his apprentice, J. O. (Orie) Fetherstone ran it, commuting between Nanton and Cayley on horseback.

Dr. J. A. Creighton and Dr. Robertson bought the business and building from Chisholm in 1908. Creighton later became sole owner of Nanton Drugs Ltd..

Thomas Little, a graduate of O.C.P. 1902, bought the Creighton business in Aug. 1923 and set up the drug business in his grocery store. Tommy Little was also in the wholesale business with William Brothers of Calgary. Red McKechnie worked for Little for a brief time then in Nov. 1925, Little hired J. W. Boyce as manager. Jack Boyce bought the business in 1926, moved it to another building, and operated as J. W. Boyce, Druggist, until he sold it in 1948.

In 1920, another drug store existed briefly in the Auditorium Hotel building and was operated by Blain Boone.

Dr. Creighton, after selling to Little, went back into business and carried it on until his retirement in 1955. His two sons, Jack and James, were both pharmacists. Jack left Nanton but James F. Creighton carried on as Creighton Drug then as Creighton Pharmacy until he retired and closed the pharmacy in 1983.

J. W. Boyce, Druggist, was sold to Mervin Daum in Oct. 1948, who then operated as Merv's Drug Store for two years when he sold it back to Jack Boyce

in 1950. Mr. Boyce then resumed his interrupted career in pharmacy until March 1951.

R. G. (Jerry) McIntyre purchased this business and named it McIntyre Drug. He served Nanton as a councillor 1960 until 1966.

M. Ann Shaw purchased the business from Mr. McIntyre in May 1983 and in 1985 she moved it to a newer building beside a health unit. Today her Nanton Drugs Ltd. is Nanton's only pharmacy. James Creighton and Jerry McIntyre continue to reside in Nanton in retirement.

**Okotoks.** The first pharmacist to practise in Okotoks may not have been a resident, but rather Calgary based C. A. Wallace, who travelled to Okotoks and High River with a horse drawn van filled with common drug store merchandise. His prescription label would indicate that he also dispensed prescriptions from this vehicle. The years of the Wallace visits could date from 1902.

G. W. Edmonds may be considered to have established the first drug store in Okotoks, in 1903. It was a log structure heated by a pot bellied stove. This business passed into the hands of Frank R. Brown, in 1910. Ernest J. Hogge (reg. A.Ph.A. 1916) is known to have practised in Okotoks but we have not learned in what capacity nor in what years.

Victor Emanuel Hessel purchased the Brown pharmacy in 1919. Vic Hessel was a very active man. He served two terms as mayor, was Master of his Masonic lodge then was in Grand Lodge. He became Registrar and President of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association then later, in Toronto, the force behind the Board of Commercial Interests and an assistant editor with the Canadian Pharmaceutical Journal.

Mr. Archie Noble purchased the Hessel business in 1940 and as the Noble Rexall Drug Store, with Hugh Berry as manager, it was in business until purchased by Mr. Berry in 1948. Mr. Noble was killed in an airplane crash, 6 months after enlisting.

Mr. Al King managed the Berry business in 1957 then, in 1958, he became the owner. Mr. King continues to own and manage an enlarged King's Pharmacy Ltd. to the present time.

The Okotoks Pharmacy opened in 1976, owned by William Demeter with pharmacist manager Peter Pisko. Mr. Demeter died six months later and the store closed after two years in business.

In recent years, Mr. Stan Dabisza opened a Value Drug Mart in Okotoks then renamed it the Super Drug Mart, closing it in 1984. It was re-opened three months later by Ralph W. Gehmlich currently operates it as Okotoks Guardian Drugs.

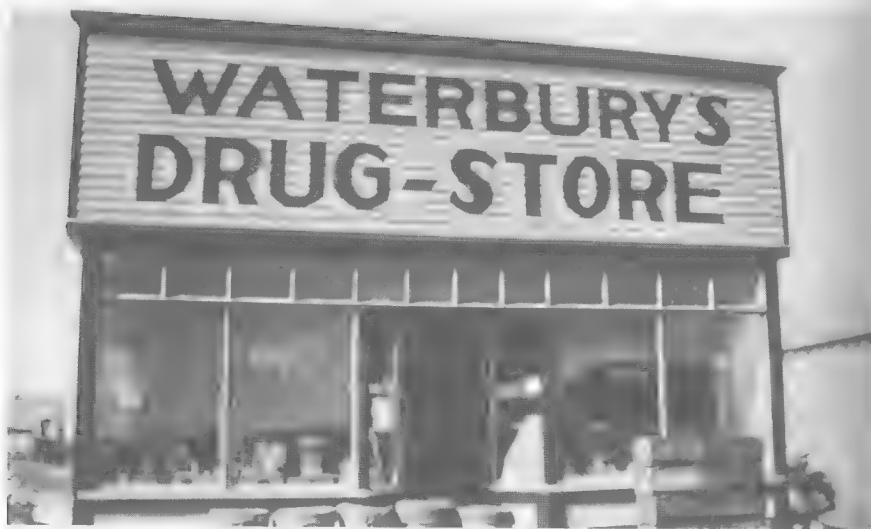
**Orion.** C. J. Ritter, a registrant of 1914, had a drug store here at least in 1917-1918.

**Oyen.** Fred Morrison was possibly the first to have a drug store in Oyen. Fred, who was not on the register of the A.Ph.A. at that time, was joined by his brother George Morrison, an O.C.P graduate of 1911, who was at Oyen from at least 1916 to at least 1929. George Morrison closed during the Depression and later practised at Blackie and Longview. Charles Wylie was here in the early 1920's but his store was destroyed by fire. M. J. Howey, who was also in business at nearby Cereal, opened a pharmacy in Oyen in 1944. This business was purchased by Muriel Johnston in 1945 and she operated it for the next 31 years. She was joined by partner Sam Solden from 1964 until 1972 when he left for Vermilion. Gerry Keating bought the pharmacy in 1976 and he later sold it to Gordon L. Johnsen who now operates the Oyen Pharmacy. Mr. Johnsen is also the pharmacist at the Big Country Hospital.

**Patricia.** W. Ross Douglass opened a retail drug store here in the early 1930's but later closed it due to "lack of trade".

**Picture Butte.** A. W. "Red" McKechnie opened a drug store here circa 1936-1937. Vernon Price began a practice in Picture Butte in 1939 and this business has been carried on by his son, Gerald V. Price who presently operates Price's Value Drug Mart. Mary M. Peterson is currently the pharmacist at the Municipal Hospital.

**Pincher Creek.** A retail store was operated by a Mr. Bleasdale very early in Pincher Creek's history but we have been unable to learn if Mr. Bleasdale was a pharmacist nor if his business was a drug store. Edward J. Mitchell, a pharmacist, bought the Bleasdale business in 1886. Mitchell was an active citizen being one of the founders of the telephone system and was Master of his Masonic lodge. He died in 1911. This pharmacy was bought by two partners, William Henry "Billy" Upton, and Harry Hinton. Mr. Upton later became sole owner. In 1915 he left to join the Canadian Army Medical Corps. Hugh Bertles was an apprentice here in 1915. Adam Cornyn was the next owner and ran this pharmacy until his death in 1933. Mrs. Cornyn kept the pharmacy open with pharmacist manager John F. Grey until 1945. Grey had been at Monitor, had been a veteran and prisoner of war from the 1914-1918 conflict. He was awarded the Masonic 50 year Jewel while in Pincher Creek. William Cornyn, son of Adam, was a 1941 graduate in pharmacy from the U. of A. but had joined the R.C.A.F.. After discharge in 1945, he took over the pharmacy. Colin Oddie and Bill Glass served their apprenticeships with William Cornyn. After his



Waterbury Drug, Queenstown, 1929

fathers death in 1973, Alan Cornyn made this pharmacy a three generation owned business and is presently operating Cornyn Drug Store Ltd.. As of 1990, this pharmacy has a 104 year, or longer, history.

D. L. McCrae (also seen spelled McRae), came to Pincher Creek from Ontario as early as 1911, perhaps earlier. He opened the second pharmacy in the town. Among his apprentices were John Hedderick, later of Calgary. Mr. McCrae died in 1927. The McCrae business was purchased by Charles C. Colpman who ran it for many years. Mr. Colpman died in 1989. Jeff Higa was the next owner of this pharmacy. Jeff and Irene Higa were honoured in 1985 when the Higa Pharmacy was chosen by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association as the "Pharmacy of the Year" in Alberta. Hugh R. Dunham joined Jeff Higa in 1978 to open Ranchlands Value Drug Mart. At present Mr. Dunham is the owner and operator. Gail Simmons is presently the manager of the Higa Pharmasave and Gift Shop. Irene Higa is pharmacist at the hospital in Pincher Creek.

**Queenstown.** When the railway put through a branch line as far as Arrowwood, going through Queenstown, a drug store was opened here by Harold E. Waterbury. The Waterbury Drug Store existed from 1927 until 1930 when it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Waterbury said there may have been a drug store in this town operated by Errett King of Vulcan, as a branch store, but if so, it did not last long.



C. T. Hall, at left, 1913

Some of these fixtures may be viewed at the Redcliff Museum.

**Raymond.** The first record of a drug store in Raymond was in 1902, being that of the McDuffie brothers, one of whom was R. H. McDuffie, who, for a short time, was a co-owner of a pharmacy in Magrath as well. Clarence J. Ritter, who was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1914, followed as pharmacist in Raymond then followed by Douglas B. Fowler, who had apprenticed in Magrath and later became a well known physician in Southern Alberta. William "Bill" Blair was a registered pharmacist here in 1913 and remained until 1917.

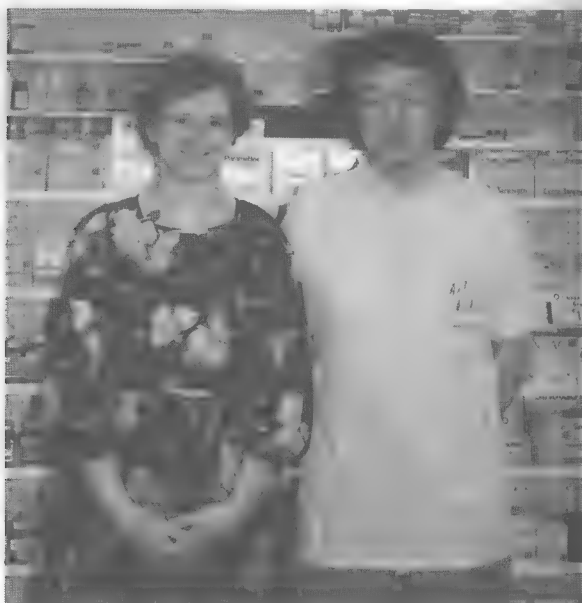
Percy Wilfred Cope opened the Raymond Pharmacy in 1923. He was an active citizen and served Raymond as mayor for 14 years. Jack Stokes bought this business in the late 1940's then in 1954 it was purchased by his manager Donald A. Steed. Mr. Steed has also been very active in his community. He is the present owner of the Raymond Pharmacy.

Dr. Thompson had a pharmacy in Raymond in 1910. This business was sold to Dr. Ivan Dixon, who was registered with A.Ph.A. and was later in Stavely and Calgary. Stuart A. Monilaws followed Dr. Dixon. Monilaws, who later took the surname McNeil, was also in Stavely for many years.

Ricks S. Smith is presently the pharmacist at the Raymond General Hospital.

**Redcliff.** Cecil T. Hall served as pharmacist in Redcliff for many years. He opened his drug store on Friday the 13th of August in 1910 and operated it until 1946. Mr. Hall was also the town postmaster and may have also had the





Pharmacists Deborah and Kiyoji  
Oikawa of Redcliff, 1980

telephone exchange. Mr. Hall offered employees of the Dominion Glass Co. a cheque cashing service. His fee for this service was to retain the cents over an even dollar figure for himself, whether 1 or 99 cents. Stanley McLuhan and Mrs. McLuhan bought the Hall business and ran it until Mr. McLuhan's death in 1951. George Hawrelak then became the pharmacist in Redcliff from 1951 until 1982, when he closed the store. When home permanents came on the market, George reportedly did such a permanent on his own hair to demonstrate the new product. Mr. Hawrelak was recipient of the Bowl of Hygea Award for his community service. Under three owners, this pharmacy had existed for 72 years.

The Blaine Drug Store was opened by Thos. R. Blaine and was in business for a length of time unknown to us but it was a second drug store to Hall's. Redcliff was home to three future pharmacists, some or all of which apprenticed in their home town. They were Walter Bamforth, Thomas Blair and Walter Frickleton.

Presently Redcliff has two pharmacies, Boylan Drug Mart #4 managed by Derek West and Broadway Pharmacy Ltd staffed by Kiyoji and Deborah Oikawa.

**Retlaw.** Peter W. McNab, then of Brooks, opened a branch drug store at Retlaw circa 1917. It was in business for a short time until destroyed by fire.

**Richdale.** S. R. Luckham was at Richdale from 1920 to 1922.

**Rockyford.** A Mr. Ralph Stone owned a drug store in the early days of the town but he was not a pharmacist. "Bert" Erswell worked for Stone both before and after qualifying as a pharmacist. In 1924, the business was bought by Albert Henry Erswell and Dr. Tiffen then in 1927 Mr. Erswell became sole owner. In advertisements, he called it the Rockyford Drug and Confectionery Coy and featured Rexall and Nyal drug specials. Stanley McLuhan bought the pharmacy from Mr. Erswell and ran it until 1942 or 1943. The drug store was then closed until after the war when, in Jan. 1946, it was reopened by Kenneth D. Mitchell. Mitchell ran it until 1959 when he left to become an Inspector for National Health and Welfare in New Brunswick. While in Rockyford, Mr. Mitchell, like Mr. Erswell, was postmaster. Mr. Erswell served Canada in two wars, in the C.A.M.C. 1916 to 1918 then as Captain pharmacist in the R.C.A.M.C.. He was later employed by the Federal Narcotic Control Division, 1947 until 1963.

**Rosebud.** A Mr. Ralph Stone had a "drug store" here in the Chinese Restaurant, so stated a business directory circa 1922-1923

**Rosedale.** Mr. J. W. P. Cannell, pharmacist, and Mrs. Cannell had a drug store here and resided in the rear of the building. The dates of this Rosedale Pharmacy are uncertain.

**Rosemary.** Dr. G. F. Enns kept a supply of drugs on hand for, as he said, "the nearest drug stores were at Bassano and Brooks".

**Rowley Station.** Dr. A. Kerr in 1920 then J. A. Key in 1924 were both listed in directories as having a "drug store" here. Neither was registered by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

**Royalties.** Noel A. Farrow opened Farrow Drug No. 2 here on May 20 1937, with Clarence W. Pickup as manager. A. W. "Bert" Mercer was a pharmacist at Farrow's for a time. Cecil Menzies also took shifts here as did apprentice Cyril Swales. This drug store was closed in 1939. Royalties was also known then as Little Chicago.

**Seven Persons.** Dr. Crawford in 1914, and James Bishop in 1920, were reported in the business directories as having "drug stores". Neither registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

**Shepard.** A. Borzo (non. reg.) had a "drug store" listed in the business directory of 1911.

**Sibbald.** Charles Wylie, shortly after graduation, bought half a building here in 1916 and opened a drug store in it. He practised here until 1919 when he left for Oyen. Dr. Silverman bought the building in 1919 but we have no evidence that he operated the pharmacy, although that is possible. There is a report of a drug store in Sibbald which was destroyed by fire in 1931.

**Silver City.** The Calgary Weekly Herald of April 2, 1884 reported the opening of a drug store in Silver City by Messrs. Teetzel and Duncan. It is not known if either of these men were pharmacists. The town and the drug store did not exist for very long.

**Standard.** Dr. D. A. Fletcher was owner and operator of Fletcher's Drug Store and soda fountain. There was a dental chair in the rear. Both Fletcher Drug and Standard Drug were listed in the 1928-1929 Alberta directory. The A.Ph.A. did not have either registered.

**Standoff.** The Blood Tribe Pharmacy in the Blood Tribe Health Centre is staffed by Ronald J. Sandul.

**Stavely.** A physician, Dr. Adams, was also the druggist here 1903-1904. Dr. Thompson carried on in this role in 1905, then Dr. Ivan Dixon became physician and pharmacist in Stavely from 1909 until possibly 1917. A business report exists which refers to druggist W. E. Foxwell of Stavely in 1909. This name did not appear on the later register of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

Stuart Alexander Monilaws McNeil came to Stavely in 1917 and remained as pharmacist for the next 28 years, operating the Stavely Pharmacy. Mitchell Dobbie became the next local pharmacist in 1944. He died in 1954, then Mrs. Dobbie kept the pharmacy open with the help of Mr. McNeil, who was still residing in the town.

John Elder purchased the business in 1955 and operated his Stavely Pharmacy until 1963. John met and married his wife Beverley while here. After the Elders moved to Calgary, the business continued without a pharmacist, as a patent medicine and sundries shop.

**Stirling.** Dr. Fred A. Keiller had a drug store section with his medical office from 1903 until the Great War. In 1910 it was advertised as the Stirling Drug Store. Dr. John S. Wray was listed as Drugs and Physician in 1914.



John and Bev Elder

**Strathmore.** Mr. Edmond W. R. Lambert arrived in 1907 from the Isle of Man where he formerly had an apothecary shop. He became a very active citizen in Strathmore offering the services of a pharmacist, stationer, lending library, and jewelry agent. Mr. Lambert was an organist and choirmaster in the Anglican Church, a Justice of the Peace and served 10 years as mayor.

Arthur W. Miller arrived in Strathmore in 1912 and left in 1921. He was an 1898 graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy. His Miller's Rexall Drug Store advertised regularly in the Strathmore Standard. John Edward McNeil, a pharmacist from Saskatchewan, came to Strathmore in 1914 then left in 1916. We have not learned if McNeil was in business or an employee.

William M. Marshall bought the Miller business April 9th 1919. He too was a heavy advertiser. Mr. Marshall had been in Grassy Lake then left Strathmore in 1923 to practise in High River. A Mr. Inglis was reported as being "in charge" at Marshall Drug and for the next owner, but no evidence has been found of his qualification.

Hiram McKechnie bought the Marshall store June 27th 1923 and renamed it the Strathmore Pharmacy, Hiram McKechnie proprietor. By Nov. 1924 it was H. McKechnie and Son. A. W. "Red" McKechnie joined his father after graduation in 1923. He married Catherine Matheson here in 1924. In the late 1920's, the Strathmore Pharmacy was sold to T. E. H. Patteson who then

operated it for many years, until perhaps 1967. "Pat" Patteson had registered with the A.Ph.A. in Edmonton in 1920. He had served in the Artillery in the recent war.

A. P. R. Lambert, a 1932 graduate of the U. of A., appears to have been proprietor of Lambert's Drug Store from 1934 until 1941. He was the son of Edmond Lambert. E. F. Thurston purchased the Lambert business in 1941, ran it under that name until 1943 when it became the Thurston Drug Store and remained as such into the late 1960's.

Julian Fedorak became proprietor of the Wheatland Pharmacy in 1967 then took over the Strathmore Pharmacy the same year. By 1975 the directory listing was the Strathmore Drug Mart and the Wheatland Pharmacy was no longer listed.

Elaine Rankine opened, what was then, a second pharmacy in Strathmore and called it the Wheatland Pharmacy, (no connection with the former pharmacy of that name). Later, Dr. Jay bought this pharmacy and it was staffed by pharmacists including: Elaine Rankine, Betty Lynnhoff and Laurel Rankine.

John Leboldus bought the pharmacy from Julian Fedorak in 1983 and renamed it the Strathmore Value Drug Mart.

The Calgary Co-op Pharmacy No. 12 became the second pharmacy in town by taking over the Dr. Jay business and has been staffed by pharmacists Linda Storkson, Erwin "Dobbie" Bissell and Elaine Rankine, Mary Peterson and Gerry Richards.

The Valley General Hospital pharmacy is staffed by John Leboldus and Elaine Rankine.

**Sunnynook.** Reference has been made to a drug store here in 1912. Dr. William W. Naismith was registered by the A.Ph.A. in 1921 as at Sunnynook.

**Taber.** Dr. G. W. Leech opened a drug store here as early as 1908. He was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1912 and went to Lethbridge in 1917. J. Beverly White was manager of the Leech business from 1910. He spent some time at Grassy Lake but was again in Taber circa 1917 and operated the Taber Drug and Stationery until at least 1923. Others reported in directories as having drug stores in the early days are: Dr. W. H. Lang and Dr. Alken in 1911 (Taber Drug Store) then George H. Maxwell (Alberta Drug and Stationery) in 1914. These latter three were not registered by the A.Ph.A. but we do not know if they had N.W.T. registration.

Cecil Johnson operated Johnson Drug from 1939 until his death in 1963. Murray Johnson, son of Cecil, worked with his father. Donald H. Fisher was manager of Johnson's from 1969 until 1974 when he went to Vauxhall. Howard

Gilchrist, who had been a pharmacist in Edmonton in 1919, came to Taber and may have been connected with the above business. Johnson's Taber Drugs is now staffed by Derick Anderson, Craig Jensen and Lovie Chomyc

Wilson Wright established Wright's Drug in the 1930's. Wilf Patemore bought into this business in the 1950's. Martin Valentine was the next owner, renaming the pharmacy Valentine's Central Drugs Ltd. Colin Oddie, a graduate of the U. of A. 1956, bought the Valentine business and renamed it Oddie's Central Drugs and ran it from 1959 until 1981. Linda Cseke was the next owner and she named it the Driftwood Guardian Drugs and operated it since 1981. Presently Driftwood Drug is staffed by Robert Bullock and Kenneth Adachi.

Colin T. Oddie has been pharmacist at the Taber General Hospital and is presently Administrator of Taber and District Health Care Complex, for a total of 28 years. Staff at the pharmacy here include Richard Nelson, Marlene Otrhalek and Marilyn Perl.

**Tilley.** Peter W. McNab ,pharmacist in Brooks, opened a branch store here circa 1913-1914.

**Travers.** A "drug store" was listed in the directories of the early 1920's, owned by J. M. Murphy (non. reg.)

**Turner Valley.** Harold E. Edwards was a 1922 graduate in pharmacy from the University of Alberta, where his friends gave him the nick name "Eugenol". Edwards opened a pharmacy in Turner Valley as well as one in East Calgary. We do not have the dates of the Turner Valley enterprise. Mr. Edwards was killed while flying his own airplane. Mrs. Edwards kept the drug store open for a time but it was later closed.

A second drug store was opened by Reginald Roach, who was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1929, and his brother Hal Roach. Reginald left to live in California.

Joseph Korczynski bought the Roach business in Oct. 1930 and was proprietor of the Turner Valley Drug Store for the next 30 years. After Mr. Korczynski left to practise in Calgary in 1960, the business became a "patent medicine" store. After this interval, a former apprentice with Mr. Korczynski, Shirley Calkins, later Mrs. Shirley Bellamy, opened a pharmacy. This business also closed and once more Turner Valley had no pharmacy. In 1979 a new pharmacy was built and opened by Susan Youngren, who named it High Country Drugs. This business was purchased, in 1984, by two partners: Myrna Gnyp and Peggy McGill, who are presently proprietors of High Country Drugs.

Some other pharmacists who worked in this oilfields town include: Myrtle

Rickett, who served her apprenticeship with Mr. Roach then with Mr. Korczynski; Violet Cornet-Ching (nee Frey) and William Moss, both of whom apprenticed with Mr. Korczynski, and W. G. Dewar.

The pharmacy at the nearby Oilfields General Hospital is staffed by Herschell Fawcett.

**Vauxhall.** Gordon Ramsay, a 1934 graduate of the University of Alberta in pharmacy, opened Vauxhall's first drug store 1 Sept. 1950. This store also had a soda fountain. In 1961 he built a newer pharmacy. When Mr. Ramsay died in 1963, Mrs. Ramsay carried on then sold the business to Joe Clermont, 1 Oct. 1964, who operated as the Vauxhall Drugs Ltd.. Donald Fisher has been owner of Fisher's Vauxhall Pharmacy Ltd. since the 1980's.

**Vulcan.** D. Charles Jones opened the first drug store in Vulcan in 1911 at age 24 years and was to be proprietor of Jones Drug Store until 1941. He sold his home and business to John Mitchell who was a graduate of O.C.P. 1912. Mr. Mitchell had left pharmacy for ranching for 25 years but now enthusiastically returned to pharmacy. David Mitchell apprenticed with his father, graduated from the U. of A. in 1957, then joined the business. Virginia Keeling, a 1959 graduate, married David and as Virginia Mitchell became very active in the business. The Mitchell Pharmacy continues to be operated by David Mitchell.

The Jones Drug Store had an early competitor when the Cope Drug Co. opened. This may have been owned by Percy Cope, formerly of Calgary. Errett King purchased the Cope business in 1918 and operated the King Drug Store in Vulcan until his death in 1956. His son, with professional help, kept the business open until it was bought, in 1958, by Walter Frickleton, who ran his pharmacy here for the next two years. In 1960, John Mitchell became owner of the Frickleton business and thus had two pharmacies in Vulcan. Virginia Mitchell managed the second store, now named Vulcan Pharmacy, until 1972 when the two Mitchell stores merged into one in larger premises. The Vulcan Pharmacy building was moved to Calgary's Heritage Park where it now serves as an ice cream parlour.

In 1965 a third pharmacy was opened by Larry Bartman. After five years, Bartman's A.R.P. Pharmacy was sold to Cliff Wright. When the Mitchell stores merged, Vulcan again became a two drug store town. The Wright Pharmacy Ltd. is now managed by Lynda M. Joyce.

The pharmacists of Vulcan have contributed greatly to the community and political life of the town. Charles Jones was an early town booster, started the telephone exchange and a music group. Errett King was mayor then David

Mitchell served three terms as mayor. Cliff Wright was a candidate in more than one provincial election and served as president of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. Virginia Mitchell, also very active in her community, met an untimely death in a 1986 highway accident.

Several well known pharmacists had their start in Vulcan: Dr. Gordon Myers, Bill Recor, Eleanor Jones (m. Corbett), Harry "Duke" Ferguson and Joe Korczynski.

The Vulcan General Hospital has Lynda Joyce as pharmacist.

**Walsh.** Joseph Faye, who held a pharmacy licence with the North West Territories, registered with the A.Ph.A. in 1913, giving Walsh as his address. He later moved to Glenewa Sask..

**Warner.** Two pharmacists who held North West Territory licences in pharmacy, and who gave Warner as their address in 1911, were Stanley Cope and Ner Davison Skile. Mr. Skile later moved to Calgary. N. D. Steele was listed in the 1911 drug store business directory but his qualification is not known. Clifford W. Francis Gaudette, who had been in Granum in 1912, later moved to Warner then still later, to Calgary. J. F. Gray (A.Ph.A. 1921) was listed in the business directories from 1924 to 1929 as having a drug store here. Gib Cavaghan, who opened a pharmacy in Forest Lawn (Calgary) in 1953 is thought to have been in Warner until then.

**Waterton Lakes.** A drug store was kept open here in the summer months for many years, by pharmacists who were based in nearby Cardston. These include: T. E. H. Patteson, H. L. Higgs, Ben S. Higgs. Ethel Norris was also registered as at Waterton Lakes in 1929.

**Wayne.** Details are sketchy, but the early register of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association listed the following: William J. McNeil in 1914, Eustave Kay in 1920, R. F. Brierley in 1933. W. Ross Douglass had a drug store in Wayne. The year is not known but was likely in the early 1930's.

**Williston.** Pharmacist G. P. Souch was in Williston in 1909 then left for Castor.

**Willow Creek.** P. Staples Brown opened a drug store here in 1928. It was unsuccessful and he moved it to East Coulee in 1929.

**Wolsely.** A. D. Ferguson was located here, possibly the year was 1910. Mr. Ferguson was not registered with the A.Ph.A. until 1913.



**Youngstown.** Some early registrants at Youngstown included: Howard Edward Ramage, a Saskatchewan resident, came to Youngstown in 1912 and remained there until at least 1918; he later left to live in Oregon; Stanley Ray Luckham, an O.C.P. graduate of 1902, came to Youngstown from Brooks in 1915; Ernest E. Jacques practised here in 1922. He later located at Chinook, Arrowwood and Calgary. There were two drug stores in Youngstown in 1912 when the railway came through and there were still two in business during the 1920's.

*The following are thanked for their assistance: Elmer Bergh, Ron Brandt, Bob Fowler, Dorothy Boyce, Gordon Buchwald, Jack Cargill, Fraser Currie, Ira Fletcher, Bill Glass, Grant Hall, Don Harmon, Jack Humphreys, Ozzie Geehan, Myrna Gnyp, Yvonne Gray, Muriel Johnston, Al King, Don King, Joe Korczynski, Andy Mackay, Peggy McGill, David and Virginia Mitchell, Colin Oddie, Elaine Rankine, Ann Shaw, Bob Shaw, Bill Stiles, Jack Stokes, Harold Waterbury.*

# Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Calgary

by J. K. Penley

## 1883 to 1945

Fort Calgary, built in 1875, had no pharmacist. At that time the North West Mounted Police and a few citizens near the fort had their medications supplied by the police medical officer and his hospital sergeant. Medical supplies were obtained from Fort Benton in what is now Montana. Excavations at the Fort Calgary site over a century later produced a large quantity of bottles which once contained Perry Davis Pain Killer. The preparation at that time contained, among other ingredients, opium and a great deal of alcohol. Self medication was evidently very popular then.

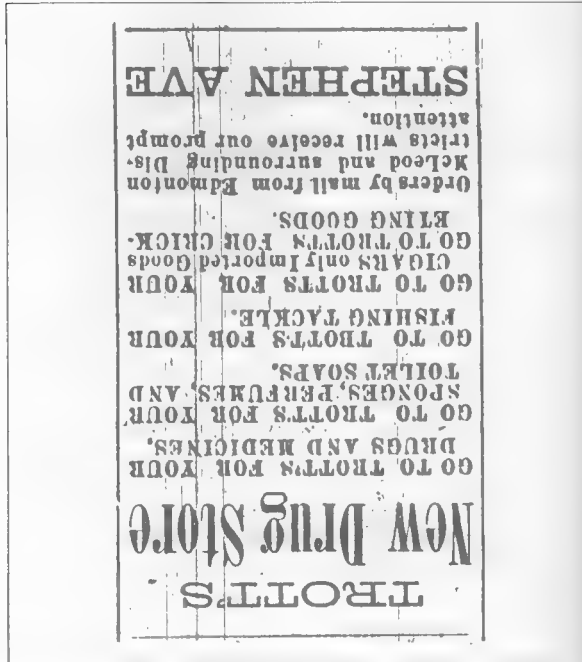
The Indians nearby had the advantage of centuries of their own medical experience which provided many potions and applications obtained from nature.

In June of 1883, Dr. Andrew Henderson arrived, having trekked overland from end of C.P.R. track near Maple Creek, to set up the first civilian medical practice in Calgary. As well he opened his "Apothecaries Hall". As Henderson was also a pharmacist, one might say that a pharmacy now existed in Calgary, although this establishment was staffed by "a local old timer and stabler".

By late May or early June of 1884, Calgary's first pharmacy, other than one associated with a physician's office, was opened by Samuel W. Trott. It was located in the newly surveyed townsite on Stephen Ave., on a lot now occupied by the Glenbow Museum. Henderson's business, which had also been moved onto Stephen Ave., was taken over by Lauder and Haldiman and renamed "Medical Hall". Lauder was a partially trained physician but Haldiman's qualification is not known to us. Thus, in 1886, Calgary's 1600 citizens were served by two drug stores.

A third "drug store" was started in 1886 or 1887 by Nelson Hoad, who is not thought to have been a pharmacist. In 1888, John Field, an English chemist

Sam Trott often ran his advertisements upside down for effect in 1884.



from Brighton, set up shop nearly opposite Trott's and declared that there was "no more monopoly" in Calgary. This suggests that Sam Trott had been considered the only pharmacist although 2 or 3 other "drug stores" existed. Then A. Newsome became the new proprietor of Medical Hall. Hoad was now listed as a tobacconist and baker.

Trott employed pharmacist H. Duncan briefly and then a pharmacist from Nova Scotia by the name of Wendell MacLean. MacLean purchased the business in 1888 and renamed it MacLean Drug. This pioneer drug store remained in the same city block for a total of 88 years. Trott took up ranching with much success but died suddenly in 1891 at the age of 43 years.

In 1892, a new pharmacist, whose proprietary medical products later became very well known to Canadians, bought the business of John Field. This man was James G. Templeton and he remained in Calgary until 1900 where he was active in the North West Territories Pharmaceutical Association.

W. Thornton and A. C. McDonald appeared briefly just prior to Templeton then in 1893 A. E. Waldon & Co. located on what was becoming a crowded Stephen Avenue. By 1894, two other pharmacists, who made their mark in Calgary, arrived, Owen H. Bott and C. A. Wallace. Bott had been in Moosamin



Billy McGill, centre, in his new west-end drug store, 1909.

and Medicine Hat prior to this and now bought Thornton's for \$1,500.00. Waldon left in 1897, then Templeton, with his small son Gilbert, left to locate in Cranbrook then later in Toronto. James Findlay bought the Templeton business and remained for some time in Calgary where he contributed a great deal to pharmacy. Findlay was to also have a drug business in Edmonton in 1913. The drug store scene remained with MacLean, Bott, Wallace and Findlay the principal actors during this Boer War period. The population had grown only slightly for the past few years but by 1902, was about to boom.

Settlers streamed west, particularly along the C.P.R. mainline. Alberta became a province in 1905. Calgary began to number its streets. The few drug stores in Calgary had all been east of Centre St. but the trend to move westward and also to the suburbs began. During the decade from 1906 to 1916, the number of pharmacies in Calgary grew from 7 to 31. We will attempt to name them all. In this narrative, unless otherwise stated, the name of the pharmacist is also the name under which the pharmacy traded, this being the common practice in Calgary for the first several decades.

In the downtown area, D. McCutcheon and W. F. McGill opened two drug stores (McCutcheon and McGill) as did C. A. Wallace. Wallace had also been travelling as far south as High River, selling drug store merchandise from his horse drawn van. J. G. MacFarlane and R. C. G. White (MacFarlane and White) also located east of Centre Street. Then the trend to move west of Centre St.

started with Fred E. Curry and Percy W. Cope (Curry & Cope's Alberta Pharmacy) then Lorne G. Oliver (Oliver Bros.). Charles M. Eddington opened near 10 Ave. & 1 St. SW and soon sold to W. T. Esdale.

1906 and 1907 saw pharmacies in the suburbs for the first time. Reginald "Rex" Harvey located near industrial east Calgary as did R. C. Bruce, both near what is now called the Zoo turn-off corner. R. B. Aylesworth soon took over the Bruce business for a couple of years, then Bruce appears to have returned. West Calgary was opened up by W. F. McGill, making McCutcheon and McGill Calgary's first "drug chain" with three outlets. H. C. McBurney was associated with this firm for a short time. Clifford Black opened his West End Pharmacy, later renamed Bow Marsh Drug Store, near what is now the south approach to the Louise bridge and Cuthbert H. Harry located near what is now the Langevin bridge. The first drug store north of the Bow river was opened on 16th Ave. N.W. by Arthur R. McEwen in 1909. By now, the Bole Drug Co. wholesale had opened in Calgary to serve the pharmacies of the growing city and surrounding towns.

In central Calgary, P. A. Holmes and also Ira W. Harrison located on the eastern edge, on the road to Victoria (Stampede) Park. W. T. Esdale moved a few blocks further south. A new name appeared on 8 Ave S.W. as Neil I. McDermid took over the Curry and Cope business and this McDermid Drug name was soon to be seen in several cities and towns of Southern Alberta.

The city was expanding. Ivan H. Crooks, then Wm. Cannell, opened in west Calgary to give Billy McGill some company. Cliff Black crossed the Bow river to locate in Hillhurst, changing the store name to Black's. Beverly N. Robinson also located in Hillhurst, near Black's Drug. James W. Johnston ventured into the Mission district on 4 St. S.W. In east Calgary, Robert H. Hughes took over the R. C. Bruce business but he soon moved right across town to 12 Ave. & 9 St. S.W. Centrally, J. D. J. McDonald purchased the business of P. A. Holmes.

And still they came! In the period just before the Great War started in 1914, Calgary welcomed: A. A. Carmichael, F. R. Perry and Princess Drug (W. F. Rook, manager) to the central area. F. A. Stewart-Dunn was dispensing at Findlay Drug. The Hudson Bay Co. also had a drug department. In east Calgary, Wm. G. Dean, with his employer J. Findlay, opened a drug store, then soon after Dean became sole owner. On the North Hill, Alex McIvor came from Cowley to open the first pharmacy on the east side of the district. He had A. R. McEwen as his partner. But it was in south-west Calgary that most expansion took place. Ira Harrison located on 17 Ave. & 4 St. S.W.. B. M. Robinson moved to the Mission district followed in turn by DeWitt Spiers, C. W. Jenkins and O. G. Price. MacFarlane and White now had a second outlet. Smallcross and Macaulay opened centrally but south of

the C.P.R. tracks. H. C. Penny perched atop the 14 St. hill.

There was little change on the pharmacy scene during that war but soon after there were several new names, many of which belonged to veterans of the conflict: Harry Creech (Sun Drug), Noel A. Farrow, E. G. Grant, P. R. Jeffrey, James Rhynes, W. H. Upton, C. A. Weston, L. W. Bell. During the post war period it seems that many were attracted to Calgary from smaller centres such as: O. F. Dunford (from Chinook), C. E. Jamieson (Killam). Gordon Sproule (Red Deer), George Brown (Empress), S. J. Clotworthy (Bowden), J. Rhynes (Donalda). At about the same time, other newcomers were: E. C. Higginbotham, Joe Mahood, Wm. Q. Eastham, Thompson Kier, J. L. Standish and John J. Weinfield. "J. J." Weinfield had been the first Jewish pharmacist to graduate from the Montreal College of Pharmacy, (later part of McGill U), and to open and own a pharmacy in Montreal. It also appears he was the first Jewish pharmacist in Alberta having arrived in 1916. A new partnership pharmacy, one to be well known in the city, was formed by Fred Temple and Bob Duff.

Wendell MacLean was a pioneer in more ways than one. In 1918, for the first time in Calgary, a woman was seen in the dispensary of a retail pharmacy as Dorothy Whiteman became his apprentice. In 1916, Annie Simpson had become the first staff pharmacist at the Calgary General Hospital and in 1926 Dorothy Whiteman was the third, Noel Farrow having been the second. Gweyn King also had had W. MacLean as her preceptor and she became the staff pharmacist at the Holy Cross Hospital in 1930, followed by Rose Wannop.

Calgary continued to grow in the 1920's and pharmacy grew with it. In the down town area a few new names appeared on the store fronts: F. R. Perry had a second store. The Curry Drug Co. opened near city hall. O. F. Dunford bought Carmichael Drug. Carmichael later had Calgary Drug Co. on 9 Ave. Gordon Sproule opened across from the C.P.R. station and the store was aptly named Sproule's Depot Drug. A McCutcheon-McGill store was bought by E. C. Macdonald (Standard Drug) and Oliver Drug had become the Temple-Duff Drug Co.. Noel A. Farrow opened on 1 st W. and John Weinfield had a second drug store opposite the Palliser Hotel then later another at 713-Centre St.. James Darling took over the Perry Drugs. Wm. Bryan managed Royal Drug for owners Greaves and McMicken.

Calgary's first national drug store chain had arrived in Calgary and the name Liggett's appeared. James Findlay had a new and rather large partner as the firm was called Liggett-Findlay. For a while they had two central outlets but by the early 1920's there was only one, called Liggett's Drug Store.

In the north: E. Gladstone Grant had opened as had A. P. Noble and Edmund J. Williams and J. J. Johnston. Hillhurst saw the Eastham Brothers sign, which later became A. E. Pepper's, while in Riverside, Percy R. Jeffrey



A convention committee 1930s.

back (l to r): Gordon Sproule, Ben Franklin, Bert Bertrand, Mickey Heath, Art Heyes, Vere Carmichael.

centre (l to r): Cliff Black, Glad Grant, Jim Clarke, Percy Jeffrey, Joe Mahood.

front (l to r): George Woodrow, Gerry Shapter, Ed Kadlec.

was in business. The Mission district of south Calgary saw openings by George Brown, J. J. Weinfield (Albion Drug), and Temple-Duff opened a branch store. In south west Calgary, W. J. Bathgate located and A. A. Carmichael had left downtown to try the suburbs. Joe Mahood bought Cannell's. The south central area saw C. E. Jamieson open and John D. MacMillan bought the south store of MacFarlane and White and took on Gerry Shapter as his apprentice. S. J. Clotworthy purchased Weinfield's Albion Drug. Percy Jeffrey opened a second pharmacy downtown, staffed by Vince Harrigan and Walter Sprague, while Reg. Harvey and C. H. Harry both left the suburbs to locate on 8 Ave. S.E.. Fred Halliday took over the Clotworthy store. H.E. "Eugenol" Edwards opened on 9 Ave. near 12 St. S.E..

The crash of 1929 and the Great Depression of the 1930's no doubt caused Calgary pharmacists some hardships. The pinch was felt even more by the contrast in income which, for some, had been very buoyant during the

former period of prohibition. Surprisingly there were very few business failures among pharmacies. Some changed hands, a very few closed and some strong new pharmacies started and remained to prosper. Calgary had 35 drug stores in 1929 and that figure remained unchanged through to 1936. There were 38 in 1937 then 37 for the last two years of those difficult times. Among the new names on pharmacies in this period were James T. Clarke, W. A. Acton and Murray Barr's Rosedale Pharmacy on the north hill. In the west end, there were store openings by Sam Friedman (Sunalta Drug). Wes Fahrner and Jean Moore (later Jean Maxie). Jean Moore (nee Beecroft) may be the first female pharmacist to have opened a retail drug store in Calgary. Over in Hillhurst, W. F. Rook now owned the business of A. E. Pepper then son W. G. Rook later took over management and ownership. Crossing town, Hiram McKechnie was now located in east Calgary with assistant C. W. Pickup. Son A. W. "Red" McKechnie soon joined and took over the firm. G. G. Ranks managed Edwards Drug for a short time after the death of H. E. Edwards who had crashed while piloting his airplane.

In downtown Calgary, L. G. "Shorty" Bell had opened then Bob Bailie and Jack Dixon bought this store (Bailie-Dixon Drug) and for a short time had a branch store in the Shamrock Hotel as well. Dixon soon left to open his own shop so then Bailie Drug and Dixon Drug were separate businesses. The drug department of the Hudson Bay Co. was managed by George Edminson with assistant John Hedderick who later became manager. In 1929 the T. Eaton department store was built on 4 St. S.W. and had a drug department with dispensary therein. Fred and Gweyn King opened their first drug store between Liggett's and Eaton's as did Gordon Sproule with his second store, buying the former Darling, now Ralph Cooper, business. E. C. Macdonald opened across from the Palliser Hotel. Ab West joined Temple-Duff as manager and Ed Kadlec managed Liggett's.

Most Calgary Drug Stores agreed to follow uniform hours of opening and closing during the 1930's. 9:00 AM until 10:00 PM were the maximum week-day hours with 2 hours allowed Sunday morning and 2 hours Sunday evening. Not all pharmacies chose to remain open that long, particularly some located in the downtown area.

Calgary Drug Stores closed all day to observe the funeral of King George V Jan 28th 1936.

A Druggist's Hockey League was active during the depression years. Teams represented Liggett's, McDermid's, Darling's, Temple-Duff's and the National Drug wholesale. The games were played in the old Victoria Arena on Sunday mornings. Some of the players were: Russ Gideon, Allan Gale, Vince Harrigan, George Law, Bob Bailie, Cecil Landymore, Ralph Cooper, Bob





Early 1930s.

Standing players (l to r): Fred Williams, Cecil Landymore, clerks, and Ed Kadlec.

Seated (centre): George Law, Goalie.

Westrop and Ed Kadlec. Cliff Black and Ben Franklin were active supporters and dispensers of refreshment. One Sunday the team, bolstered by the addition of Duke Ferguson, visited Edmonton to play a similar team which had added Groves of Camrose to their roster. The Calgary team was trounced!

Several drug stores had a Sub-Post Office within the premises. Applications for a "sub" had to be approved by a representative of the political party currently in power in Ottawa. Regulations required that such post offices be a certain distance apart, perhaps it was one mile in the suburbs. Although these sub post offices were a great deal of extra work, required much book-keeping and sometimes tested the limits of public relations, they were sought by many drug stores for the traffic they created.

The number of pharmacies in Calgary increased from 37 in 1939 to 40 in 1942 and remained so until 1945. New names on the retail druggists directory list in 1939 included Cecil Menzies (Cecil Drug), Sinnott MacDonald (Central Drugs) and Robert Leitch (Crescent Drugs). By 1942 the names of Ross Douglass and Archie McLeod appeared on store fronts and so it remained until end of war.

During the period discussed thus far, there were many other pharmacists



J. Sinnott MacDonald and family at his Central Drugs, 1941.



John J. Weinfield

employed in Calgary who were not pharmacy owners during those times and whose names may not have been mentioned. They include: Fred R. White, John Sommerville, Ronald Monilaws, C. S. Wallace, William Upton, Charles Laycraft, Norman Babcock, Charles Weston, Rose Wannop, Jean Cogswell Willoughby, Ruby Hart Gore, Herman Ganton, Lorne Anderson, Howard Armitage, Howard Young, Margaret Glover Tibbett, Harold Henker, Ronald Holmes, Howard Pickup, Prue Penley, Muriel Naylor, Randy Murray, Hymey Hanson, Eileen Keir Kalbfleisch, George Willoughby, Ted Marles, Bill Toole, Harold Waterbury, Larry Hodgins, Cec. Chesson, C. G. Van Kleek, James Davey, Mal Irwin, George Law and Bert Coffin.

Several pharmacists served as managers or owners of a pharmacy which was known to the public by a name other than theirs. Some of these were: Wm. Mitchell (Black's), George Humeston (Princess), George Edminson and John Hedderick (Hudson Bay Co.), Harold Henker (MacLean's), Don McKeague (Dunford's), Sid Dorland (Calgary Associate Clinic Pharmacy), Gordon Brown (Harvey's), Robert Winters (Temple-Duff No.2), C. W. Pickup (Examiner), Rod Miller, J. L. English, Theo Carlson, Chas. Netherby, Ed Kadlec, Bud Graham, Floyd Pritchard, (all at Liggett's), Bob Young and James Balkwill (Eaton's).



sitting (l to r) Bob Cook, E. Craig Higginbotham, Teddy Leacock, E. C. McDonald, Hugh Graham, and behind, N. I. McDermid, Geo. Humeston.  
 sitting, across table from rear (l to r): C. E. Jamieson, Fred Halliday, Joe Mahood, Murray Barr, Art Heyes, Alf Edlund, Hedley Hart.  
 standing (l to r): Ivan Crooks, Gerry Shapler, Noel Farrow, Ed Kadlec, Ben Franklin, James T. Clarke, Lee Phillips, Bert Berstrand, Glad. Grant, George Woodrow, and sitting,  
 Mickey Heath  
 sitting, from rear (l to r) Larry Hodgins, Bob Winters, Cliff Black, Bob Kilson, Cecil Price, Errol McVeigh, Bill Butchard, Fred Franklin, Clare Barkley.  
 sitting opposite (l to r) Andy McNeil, John and Helen Hutton Shipley, Sam Friedman

## From 1945

*by David McRitchie and J. K. Penley*

The era following World War II saw a great increase in the number of drug stores in Calgary. This was brought on by the increase in population, the return of veterans and the increasing number of women in pharmacy.

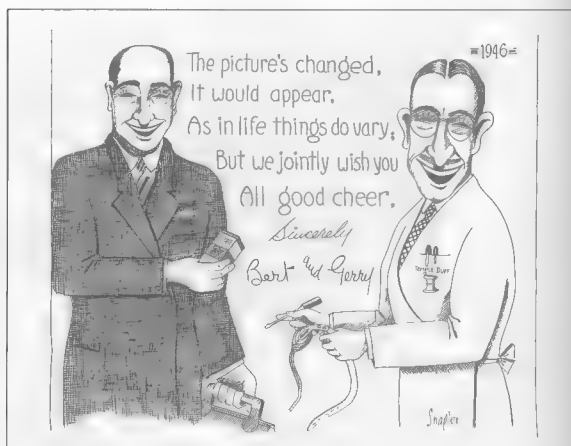
At this time, many busy pharmacies were operating successfully in the downtown core and neighbourhood pharmacies were usually smallish, corner store operations. There was a trend, in these post war years, to install soda fountains in many of the neighborhood drug stores. This trend was not to last much more than ten years. The advent of new subdivisions and shopping malls had not yet taken place.

Let's take a walk down 8 Ave. in the immediate post war year. Starting at 2 St. S.E., the Princess Drug was still a neighbour of city hall and had George Humeston as manager. As we proceed west, we find C. H. Harry Drug on the north side and the O. G. Price Drugs across the avenue. Early Calgary pharmacist Reginald Harvey was in the next block then MacLean Drug which, since 1943, was owned by Harold Henker. In the next block, west of Centre St., we find the Bailie Drug store. The McDermid Drug was being managed by Ken McDermid with John Kirby and George Willoughby dispensing. Their very busy photographic department was being run by Jack Fair Sr.. Crossing 1 St W. we come to the Temple-Duff Drug Co. which Ken McDermid and Gerry Shapter had just purchased. Some pharmacists and future pharmacists who worked there would include: Howard Young, Jack Corbett, Carmen Bliss, Doug Greig, Wayne McDougall, David McRitchie, George Snelgrove, Gordon Macaulay and Albert Crooks. A few doors west was King Drug being run by Fred and Gweyn King. Ron MacLean, John Chamberlain, Iva Rupp and Derek West would soon be apprenticing there. On the 2 St. S.W. corner, Liggett's had a busy lunch counter and drug business with Bud Graham, manager, Floyd Pritchard assistant manager and Hermie Hermanson and Don Newinger dispensing. A few doors along, C. W. Pickup was the Registrar of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association with offices above Birk's Jewelry. Sproule Drug was next where Jack Black was about to apprentice. Ruby Hart Gore, Ron Monilaws, Roy MacRae and Jerry McIntyre all dispensed in Eaton's under

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photo to left: The occasion is a send off party for Ben Franklin of the Wampole company. His replacement was Lee Phillips. The cartoon poster was made by Gerry Shapter. Those present were Calgary druggists with these exceptions: Cook, Graham, Heyes, Bertrand, McVeigh, Butchard, were from Alberta National Drug Wholesale. Franklin and Mitchell from Stevens hospital supplies. Leacock, Shapter, Franklin, Phillips, Woodrow, Heath, Barkley, were drug company representatives. Out-of-towners were: Alf Edlund, Crossfield, Hedley Hart, Cochrane, Bob Kitson, Lethbridge, Cecil Price, Fort MacLeod. The year is about 1939.

Bert Coffin takes over Frosst territory as Gerry Shapter returns to retail pharmacy.



manager Milt Merrett. In the next block was the small Dixon Drug Store.

Let's slip back to the 1 St. crossroads, Calgary's commercial centre. In the Greyhound building, Jack Dunford operated a successful professional pharmacy with manager Don McKeague, who was soon to take over ownership. Some pharmacists who had been or who were to be dispensing here were Vince Harrigan, Prue Penley, Hymey Hanson, Bill Buckley, Ken Penley, Jean Nettleton, Ron Brandt, Stu Monro, Dale Simpson, Hazel Andreen and Ken Oliver. Around the corner on 6 Ave. S.W., was the pharmacy of the Calgary Associate Clinic where Aaron Mann, James Davey, Charles Jones and Claude Matthews dispensed with manager Sid Dorland. Bob Bailie soon moved his pharmacy to larger premises on 7 Ave. just off from 1 St. S.W. opposite the Hudson Bay Co. which then had a drug department but no dispensary. On 7 Ave. & Centre St., King Drug No. 3 was about to open with manager C. G. VanKleek. Back on 1 St., but south of 8 Ave., we find the firmly established Farrow Drug. Noel A. Farrow was well known in pharmacy circles at all levels. Kitty corner from the Palliser Hotel was the E. C. Macdonald Drug. Across from the C.P.R. station was the small, but busy, Sproule Depot Drug where W. J. Bathgate and Norman Sproule held forth.

The west end of Calgary was served by the long standing pharmacies of McGill Drug, Mahood Drug and Crooks Drug. Mal Irwin opened on 17 Ave. & 8 St., close between Moore's Drug and McGill Drug. King Drug No. 2 was at 17 Ave & 4 St. S.W. and would soon be followed by another King Drug 9 blocks further south. Between the two was Cecil Drug and then the McDermid-Winters Drug which had replaced Temple-Duff No. 2 with Bob Winters mgr. and Horace Mawson as apprentice. Across from the Col.

Belcher Hospital, Archie McLeod had opened his McLeod Drug on 12 Ave. On 1 St. S.W., J. D. MacMillan, with apprentice Peter Coyle, followed by Lloyd Baldwin and Larry Bartman, practised and two blocks further south was Esdale Drug where Len Esdale and Harper Thornton dispensed. At 14 St., Sam Friedman had his Sunalta Drug and much further south on 14th St. was the E.C.Higginbotham Drug where Bill Rathbone was dispensing. On 2 St. S.E., C. E. Jamieson was winding down. Walter Bamforth pioneered the Killarney district with its first drug store.

Swinging up onto the north hill, Howard Young opened near 10 St. N.W.. A few blocks east was Murray Barr's Drug store and Irwin Drug No. 2 was building across the street. Jimmie Clarke had his business at 2 St. N.W. then at Centre St., Ross Douglass had taken over Leitch's Crescent Drug, renamed it Douglass Drug, and advertised a 24 hour prescription service with opening hours daily to almost midnight, a new convenience for Calgarians. On the Edmonton Trail, A. F. McKibbin came in from Carbon to buy the McIvor Drug. Ken and Prue Penley opened their first drug store. Just down the hill, Jeffrey Drug covered the Riverside district. On Centre St., Grant Drug continued to prosper and further north, Jack Corbett hung out his shingle at 23 Ave. N.. In Hillhurst, W. G. "Bill" Rook had Rook Drug and Wm. Mitchell ran Black's Drug. Much further west in the neighbouring community of Bowness, Isobel Kenney with her husband Tom, opened Bowness Drug.

In east Calgary, A. W. "Red" McKechnie carried on the family name in pharmacy and across the street, Wm. G. Dean had his Dean's Rexall Pharmacy.

Before the end of the decade, William Marshall, from High River, with sons Ross and Grant, bought the Price Drug on 8 Ave. S.E., renaming it Marshall Drug. In Bridgeland, Nellie Estabrook and her husband "Esty" opened Estabrook Drug. Mal Irwin had opened Irwin Drug No. 3 opposite Crooks Drug then later named it Irwin Drug No. 2, with Cecil Schultz as manager. Hymey Hanson started his first drug store opposite Eaton's on 4 St. & 8 Ave. S.W. Dixon Drug closed. King Drug on Centre St. & 7 Ave. S. became York Drug with Alf Barbour and C. G. VanKleek owners.

Several changes in Calgary pharmacy were forthcoming in the 1950's.

Many veterans had graduated and joined the pharmacy rolls. More women were graduating. Quite a few pharmacists came to Calgary from other provinces, particularly Saskatchewan. There was a short lived trend to install soda fountains in neighbourhood drug stores. New pharmacies opened and a few older pharmacists saw the opportunity to sell to a younger person and retire. It became more common to see a name above the pharmacy other than that of the pharmacist owner.



When good friends get together.

l to r: Jack and Eleanor Corbett, Doug and Peggy Marles, Prue and Ken Penley, Olga and Howard Young, circa 1950.

Harold Henker sold MacLean Drug to J. W. Patemore and bought the Bailie Drug on 7 Ave. S.W., renaming it Avenue Drug. Charlie and Betty Laycraft bought Mahood Drug to form Laycraft Drug. Cliff Irwin became sole owner of Irwin Drug No. 2 and renamed it Cliff Irwin Drug. Jim Lukes bought Jeffrey Drug, opened a new store nearby, then combined the two in the new location. Bob Bailie purchased the Murray Barr Drugs. Archie McLeod became the new owner of Moore's Drug then later closed his 12 Ave. store. Joe Tucker opened on 8 Ave. S.W.. Tambllyn Drug bought the two King Drugs on 4 St. S.W. and staffed them with Dick Large, George Law, Anita Kahn, Les Parsons, and Derek West. Later, Tambllyn also took over the large Liggett store. Ken Roulson purchased Marshall Drug on 8 Ave. S.E. and named it Downtown Drugs. Ken Mortimer joined Princess Drug.

Sunalta Drug was converted into very large premises by business manager Lenny Friedman and renamed Super S Drugs with Don Warne manager of the pharmacy. Jack Black purchased the C. E. Jamieson business, moved it to the next corner and renamed it Victoria Drug. Later, Joe Altilio joined Jack Black in this business.

Many new pharmacies opened in the 1950's and most of this action was in the suburbs. In the south west, pharmacies were established by: Floyd



Brewerton Medical Centre  
Apothecary.

l to r: Ted Brewerton, Jean  
Nettleton, Robert Clifton.

Pritchard, Marshall Drug, Joe Tucker, Mal Irwin (Irwin Drug 4 St.W.) later bought by manager Myrtle Magnusson (Central Drug), John Kirby, Ken and Prue Penley (Penley's Killarney Drugs), James Davey (Allied Drug No. 1), Aaron Mann (Allied Drug No. 2), Evelyne Laughlin (Altadore Drug) later owned by Howard Hall then by Fred Boyle, Wally Butterwick (Windsor Park Pharmacy). North west Calgary saw new pharmacies opened by: Frank Bennett, Ed Powell (Capitol Hill Drugs), Gordon Henker (Gordon Drug), Don Bergin (Parkdale Drug), Reuben Hashman (Briar Hill Drug), Albert Crooks (Crooks Hillhurst Branch), and Wayne McDougall, in association with Harold Henker, opened Kensington Drug. In the Forest Lawn community just east of Calgary, Gibson Cavaghan opened one, then a second, drug store.

In the north east sector, Douglass Drug No. 2 was opened. Cec Henderson was manager of both Douglass Drugs with dispensers Harry Grose, W. J. McNeil, C. E. Jamieson, James Rhynes, Myrtle Rickett. Bob Wallace opened as did Muriel Naylor (Renfrew Drug).

Centrally, the Pinder Drug chain, based in Saskatchewan, entered the Alberta market by buying the venerable Temple-Duff Drug. Co.. This venture lasted only a short time until the Hudson Bay Co expansion forced its closure. Pinders were to return in the future. Jim Wylie and Evelyne Laughlin purchased the E. C. Macdonald business (Wylie Drug).

Medical buildings were going up in the 1950's and in them were established some professional pharmacies. The Medical Arts building was erected by the King family with the Medical Arts Pharmacy therein operated by Fred and Gweyn King. The staff included: Art Warr, Jack Humphreys, Allan Gale, and



Ken Hayhurst who later owned the pharmacy. The Brewerton Medical Centre Apothecary was established in the new Medical Centre building by Ted Brewerton. His staff included Jean Nettleton as manager then later, son David Brewerton. The Medical-Dental Pharmacy was opened by David McRitchie, with apprentice Patti Bannister, on 12 Ave. S.W. in a new medical clinic building. The Brown Clinic Pharmacy appeared with Reuben Hashman as owner. Doris Johnston was a later manager.

In the latter part of the 1950's, more pharmacies changed hands. McGill Drug was purchased by Harold Henker. W. F. McGill stayed on until he had completed 50 years as a Calgary pharmacist. Hugh and Betty Levy took over the location which Estabrook Drug had occupied and established Bridgeland Drug. Doug Levy later operated this pharmacy. Howard Hall bought Wylie Drug. Harper Thornton purchased McKibbin Drug and Harper Drug appeared. Henker Drug replaced Allied Drug No. 2 as Gordon Henker took over. Allied Drug No. 1 became Jim Davey's Davey Drug. The long established Esdale Drug became Neumann Pharmacy under Vic Skaluba's ownership. Jean Sinclair began a 25 year career at the T. Eaton Co. drug department and became manager. Grant Drug was sold to Harold McClelland. Irwin Drug on 14 St. became Green Cross Drug with Scotty Logan, then Charles Wylie as manager. Bob Horne purchased Gordon Drug (Horne Drug). Howard Armitage bought Tucker Drug on 8 Ave. S.W. (Uptown Drug). Ken McDermid and Doug Greig opened McDermid-Greig Drug in Britannia. This later became Britannia Pharmacy, owned by Jack Black and much later by Debbie Boyle. Larry Northey bought Forest Lawn Drug from Gib. Cavaghan then opened a second branch.

New pharmacies opened in the late 1950's include: Tamblyn Drug, Richmond Road. Dick Large and George Law were managers here. Other Tamblyn outlets soon followed and some of their managers were Evelyn Laughlin, Jerry Stewart, Grace Miller, Russ Flodstead. Flodstead and Gordon Retallack were supervisors for this chain. Gordon Macaulay opened two pharmacies in south west Calgary. John Kirby had a second store (Glendale Drug) and Bob Wilson managed Kirby Drug. On the north side, Gordon Sauder opened as did Alan Thompson. Vic Skaluba moved Neuman Pharmacy to Centre St. N. where it later became Charman Drug under Bob Charman. Bob Shea, in association with Harold Henker, opened Cambrian Drug. Further east, Jack Payne opened in Ogden and Al Moreau bought Plaza Drug from G. Cavaghan. Harmon Shipley, with Lloyd Baldwin, opened Thorncliff Drug. In Bowness, Bill Buckley had come to Calgary from Canmore to open with Bill Dickie soon to assist. Pay n Save startled the down town area with a new large discount drug store, managed in turn by Grant Glen, Al Ingleson, George Snelgrove,



Bamforth Drug 1956.  
Lorena and Walter Bamforth with Bob Wilson in dispensary.



Bamforth Drug, 1956.

Ken Newcombe, Diane Francis, Kwong Chow, and Don Warne. Ed. Ingleson opened a retail drug store at 12 Ave. & 1 St. S.W..

The advent of regional shopping centres in the 1960's, with ample parking space, had a marked effect on pharmacy in the city. For over seven decades, pharmacists in Calgary had looked upon the well established pharmacies in downtown Calgary as the local corner stone of the profession. Now the new shopping centres, combined with the frantic erection of new office buildings in the central core, (and destruction of the old), caused many time honoured businesses to be demolished. Some others simply closed. One strolling down 8 Ave. in this decade would no longer see C. H. Harry Drug, McDermid Drug, Temple-Duff or Pinder Drug, King Drug, Harvey Drug, Sproule's Depot Drug, Sproule Drug, Hanson Drug, Dixon Drug, Uptown Drug, MacLean Drug.

The first large shopping centre was the North Hill Shopping Centre in 1958. A large Tamblyn Drug with lunch counter opened in it with Ray Fisher as manager. The second regional centre, which was then Western Canada's largest, was the Chinook Shopping Centre in 1960 and in it the Woodward Department store had a pharmacy with George Darichuk as manager. Penley's Chinook Drugs also opened here with managers Ken Penley and Stewart Andreen. Lane Casement was a later manager, then owner.

The Westbrook Centre followed and had a Tamblyn Drug with George Law and Bobby Winters on staff. There was also a Jack Austin Pharmacy in the Woolco Department store. There were to be others and as well many smaller shopping centres opened, most with a pharmacy

Other changes in the central area include: A. & B. Drugs, owned by Jack Black and Joe Altilio, replaced Hall's Pharmacy. Dollar Pharmacy was opened by Gerry Nep. The Hudson Bay Co. had a pharmacy installed by Don McKeague with Bill Rook dispensing. Cec Henderson established one of the first pharmacies located in an office tower. Ken Oliver purchased Dunford Drug. Demolition later caused a move. He bought York Drug, named it Dunford-York then still later moved to A.G.T. Plaza. Royal Drugs was managed by Gordon Brown after his Harvey Drug was lost to fire.

In the south west area there were changes: Elmer Bergh and Martin Valentine bought Altadore Drug then later sold it to Fred Boyle. Allan Campbell bought Laycraft Drug. Higginbotham Drug was sold to Grant Sanders, and Bamforth Drug to Ron Morrison. Morris Dancyger purchased a Macaulay Drug, naming it Morane Pharmacy. Dancyger was also to buy Buckley Drug in Bowness and still later this pharmacy was to be owned by Bob Antoniuk. Penley's Killarney Drug was sold to manager Ron MacLean and partner Lawrence Blain and became a Blain-MacLean Phar-

macy. Peter Coyle now owned MacMillan Drug. Windsor Park Pharmacy was sold to Arnold Rogers and Horace Mawson. Art Pedlar was associated with Crooks Drug and George Crooks had come in from Sedgewick to join the firm. Soon Albert Crooks was to assume ownership. Art Pedlar then opened his own pharmacy on 6 Ave. SW..

The several members of the Crooks family deserve mention. Ivan had a N.W.T. licence, opened his Calgary store in 1912. His son Jack was a pharmacist in B.C. and his son Ted spent his working career in the drug business with Alberta National Drug. George Crooks was a nephew of Ivan. He came from Sedgewick to take over Ivan's business in 1949. His son Albert had his own pharmacy elsewhere in Calgary then became owner of the original Crooks Drug. The store changed hands in 1992 after 80 years of family ownership in the same location.

New pharmacies in the south west included: McKeagues Academy Pharmacy, and close by was David McRitchie's new Rideau Medical-Dental Pharmacy. Mission Pharmacy opened in the third medical building on 4 St. S.W.. Gerry Busby in Lincoln Park and Bud Graham opened up in Fairview. Graham Drug later became Storey Drug with E. E. Jacques as pharmacist. George Snelgrove and Ross Schmidt opened Glenbrook Drug. Haysboro Drug was started by Peter Stevens. Horace Mawson and John Kirby opened Leed's Pharmacy. Two Mount Royal Drugs were established by Bill Smithwick with Archie McLeod dispensing. Westgate Drug was opened by George Snelgrove and later bought by Charlie Laycraft and still later by Lloyd Weiker. Hymey Hanson had Southwood Drug and John Elder came in from Stavely to open Elder Drug. Ken McDermid located on Elbow Drive. Super S Drug opened a second large store on MacLeod Trail. Cross Drug was established by Jack Black, Horace Mawson and Arnold Rogers and this pharmacy was later called Southridge Drug with Jack Black as sole owner. Marshall Drug opened another pharmacy, this in the Chinook Shopping Centre. Pay n Save started a second store on Elbow Drive with Vic Lenko, then Gerry Busby managing, and was to have a third outlet in Forest Lawn with Vic Skaluba managing. Also on Elbow Drive, George Snelgrove had opened Kingsland Drug. This was later sold to Charlie Laycraft and still later to Fred Boyle. G. M. Drugs was opened by George Mazurenko then later owned by Bob Horne as Glamorgan Drug and still later by Bob Wilson.

New pharmacies in this period include: A second outlet by Horace Mawson. George Kerr started his own pharmacy. Lionel Tucker opened Mayland Heights Drug. Collingwood Drug was established by Wing Lew and this business was later purchased by Ed. Powell. McNeil's Stadium Drug opened with manager and later owner, Bob Roberge. Ross Haslam and Cliff Irwin



l to r: Stan Dabisza, Glenda  
Dabisza, Dave Robertson.  
Pharmacists partners at Health  
Plus, Calgary.  
photo: Drug Merchandising.

started up the Blue Bottle Pharmacy. Telstar Drug was brought onto the scene by Elmer Bergh who purchased Bennett Drug. Northmount Drug was opened by Archie McKechnie and Reuben Hashman. Norman Sproule had opened another Sproule Drug which he later renamed Morley Trail Drug. Northwest Professional Pharmacy was established by Robert Clifton. Lorne Anger started up Highwood Drug. The Cunningham Drug Co. of British Columbia was briefly represented in Calgary. In association with Harold Henker, Bert Gilbert opened Brentwood Drug then later the pharmacy in the K-Mart store was opened with Skip Gibson and George Dougherty. This was the first K-Mart pharmacy in Canada to be opened by independent pharmacists, and it achieved many records for the chain.

Changes in north Calgary saw Shipley Drug bought by Norman Sproule. Penley Drug bought Harper Drug then also Renfrew Drug and combined the three in a new location nearby. Cecil Drug moved from Mission to Montgomery. After Cecil Drug closed, Bowmont Drug was opened by Don Wickford further west in the Bowness district. Morley Trail Drug was purchased by Ted Marles. It was later sold to Don French who closed it and moved the assets to Dalbrent Drug. Penley Drug was sold to manager Lawrence Blain and with partner Ron MacLean, became one of the two Blain-MacLean Pharmacies. William Dickey was the new owner of Bowness Drug and he would later sell it to Nick Cowles. Herschell Fawcett purchased Clarke Drug then later Bill Rennie became owner.

South east Calgary was developing and enlarging as Forest Lawn became

part of Calgary. Forest Lawn Drugs No. 1 and 2 had been Gib. Cavaghan's followed by Larry Northey, Al Moreau and still later by Welland Muri. Harold and Doris Enderud and Tom Blair worked here. Dr. P. S. Brown had his Gilt Edge Pharmacy in Albert Park. In Alyth, Cecil Beaton opened Beaton's Ranch Pharmacy. Gerry Blanchfield had a busy professional pharmacy in a medical clinic with Ozzie Geehan assisting. This dispensary was later operated by Claude Matthews then Ted Marles then Ken Foong. Lloyd Briggs bought Plaza Drug. Maurice Makowichuk opened Marlborough Drug. Marcy Weiss and Ted Marshall bought McKechnie Drug and the Marshall Drug sign was thus put up by a third generation of Marshalls. Across the street, Dean Drug had been sold and two former Hanna pharmacists in turn owned this business, E. Shiletto and C. Wylie. Bill Smithwick started up Acadia Drug. Elmer Bergh, then Nick Cowles were to later own this store as Villa Drug.

At the close of this decade in 1969, Calgary had 96 pharmacies. As this account is written some twenty odd years later, there are 182, nearly double. Changes of ownership and new pharmacies in the 1970's and 1980's are so numerous as to enable us to only cite the major changes and trends for this narrative.

The 1970's and 1980's saw the continuation of chain store openings and a diminishing number of pharmacies owned by individual pharmacists. Pay n Save and Super S Drugs were to disappear. The several Tamblyn stores had been taken over by Boots Drug and then they too left the local market. The Shoppers Drug Mart outlets had arrived and rapidly expanded until they have about eighteen outlets in the city. Sprague Drug, based in Edmonton, appeared in Calgary, particularly in centrally located office towers. Pinder Drugs, widely distributed in Saskatchewan, came to Calgary and opened six outlets in the city. In November 1992, Shoppers Drug Mart acquired all the Pinder Drug stores including those in Calgary. The Super Drug Mart group, started locally by John Stiles and Reg Hihn then Dennis Shewchuck, jointly have thirteen retail drug stores in and near Calgary. London Drug, after establishing elsewhere in Alberta, came to Calgary and quickly opened several large outlets, now six or seven. An impact on pharmacy has been made by several of the major food and department stores which installed drug departments and pharmacies. These include the several Co-op stores, and Canada Safeway with about a dozen each, plus others.

In order to compete, many of the independently operated pharmacies have grouped under banners such as I.D.A., A.R.P., Value Drug Mart, Guardian, Pharma-C-Mart and Pharmasave.

Calgary pharmacists whose practice was in hospital pharmacy are discussed in the chapter Hospital Pharmacy.



l to r: Vere Carmichael (J & J), W. F. "Billy" McGill, C. E. Jamieson, "Bert" Bertrand, "Glad" Grant, Clarence Pickup, "Jimmie" Clarke.

Calgary has seen many changes since the first pharmacy was established here well over a hundred years ago. We can wonder, in these changing times, what effect the next hundred years will have on Calgary pharmacy.

# Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Central Alberta

by G. Ronald Holmes, W. L. Boddy, J. K. Penley

*Editor's note: Much of the history, development and romance anywhere in Alberta is tied to the advance of the railroad. As the C.P.R. advanced from Calgary to Strathcona in 1891, it gave rise to a number of towns and villages. The ambitious communities of Red Deer and Wetaskiwin, both grew in size to become cities, the latter being called the smallest city in the British Empire.*

*This text, as with other parts of Alberta, could be listed chronologically but that would be, at best, an educated guess and it seems that an alphabetical listing is perhaps easier for the reader to peruse.*

*The reader will note how many drug stores in small communities were commenced by physicians. Why is this so? It seems that after considerably less schooling than is required today, the combined professions of medicine and pharmacy promised a satisfactory return when a dollar had some significance as a purchasing agent and where the population was still quite limited.*

**Alhambra.** Mr. F. E. Lessing, who had homesteaded in the district in 1909, operated a "drug store" here in the 1920's. Although termed as "a pharmacist from Chicago", he was not registered with the A.Ph.A.. After his death, Mrs. Lessing sold the business to Mr. John MacDonald.

**Alix.** A Dr. Wilson had a drug store which burned down in 1907. Two other physicians who held pharmacy licences were Dr. Melvin Graham in 1911 and Dr. A. E. Shore from 1912 to 1918. Dr. Shore had a directory listing of Doctor and Drugs but we have no evidence yet of any separate drug store for either physician. Mrs. A. E. Henry, pharmacist, came to Alix from Rosyth some time after 1927 then pharmacist Floyd Montgomery Page came to Alix from Stettler in 1934. A "drug store" was operated during the second world war by Angus Lundy (non A.Ph.A.). Elizabeth E. Bardseth was a pharmacist in Alix until



retirement in 1963. Directories also listed, under Drug Stores, Ernest D. Ferguson (1920) and Dr. R. B. Jenkins (1924).

**Alliance.** James Irvin Gibson, a graduate of McGill in 1912, registered with the A.Ph.A. in 1916 as at Alliance, having previously been at Munson. He opened his drug store here within six months of the arrival of "steel". Mr. Gibson was at Alliance for many years and served the town as mayor. "Jake" Gibson died in 1953. Today there is no pharmacy in Alliance but residents are served by pharmacies in nearby Sedgewick and Forestburg.

**Bashaw.** Horace Y. Rayner opened a pharmacy here in 1911 and operated it until 1915 when it was purchased by Sydney L. Eversfield who ran it for the next ten years. George A. Smythe purchased the business in 1923 or 1924 and was the proprietor until he sold to W. E. "Bill" Hawker circa 1928. John Pearson took over the pharmacy in 1934 and was Bashaw's pharmacist for the next 33 years. George Darichuk bought Mr. Pearson's store in 1967 and with his wife Louise, operated this pharmacy until Jan. 6, 1992 when Bashaw Drugs Ltd. was sold to Theodore Szumlas.

The Bashaw General Hospital has G. T. Darichuk and P. Gail Munro as pharmacists.

**Bawlf.** Dr. Albert DesBrissy Callbeck, who had been at Hardisty, came to Bawlf in 1917 or 1918. He was registered with A.Ph.A.. Joseph C. Paulson ran Paulson's Drug Store here in, at least, 1915 and 1916. Robert Young came from Scotland, had practised in Edmonton then came to Bawlf where he was in business during the 1920's at least.

**Beaumont.** Barbara L. Willis with Tazmin F. Merali are presently the pharmacists serving this community at the Beaumont I.D.A. Pharmacy.

**Bentley.** Roy M. Collie was an early pharmacist of Bentley having moved here from Lacombe. Dr. W. G. Evans was also an early registrant. William James White was registered by A.Ph.A. as at Bentley in 1918 and he later went to Rimbey. John McQueen managed the Bird Drug from 1919 through to at least 1922. Bird Drug was a small store, a branch of Bird Drug of Ponoka. At this time there two drug stores in Bentley, the other being named Bentley Pharmacy. Dr. W. A. Henry, physician, held registration in A.Ph.A. from 1926. Fay Johnson was registered by A.Ph.A. as at Bentley in 1928. Mr. A. Grant Sanders bought Bird Drug in 1934 and operated it as the Bentley Drug Store until 1959. Doreen Carruthers (Zinyk) worked for Mr. Sanders. Selma "Mickey" Jepson

(Clinton) bought Sanders Drug and ran the store for some time. After her death, Mr. Clinton married Ethel Martin and they then ran the store. Fred and Joan Stephanyk bought the Jepson store and operated it from 1967 until 1977. Ken Argue was the next owner of the Bentley Drug Store; and he was joined, in 1988, by partner Ted Johnson. They built a larger premises and renamed it "The Pharmacy I.D.A.".

Ronald G. Rose is pharmacist at the Bentley General Hospital.

**Big Valley.** A (Dr.?) Robert D. Mace was registered by A.Ph.A. here in 1916. Pharmacist Gilbert James Anderson was in Big Valley in 1917 until at least 1924 and was mentioned for his work during the 1918 'flu epidemic. Miss. Margaret Victoria Bennett, who had been at Stettler, practised in Big Valley from a date in the 1920's. Her drug store burned in 1939.

**Blackfalds.** Wm. Geary, of Innisfail, had a branch drug store here, managed by his employee, Matt Maybank, in 1905. Business directories listed under Drug Stores: Arthur E. Brethour in 1914 and J. V. N. Miller in 1924, but neither were registered by A.Ph.A.

**Bluff Centre.** So listed in business directory of 1920 which stated that Wm. G. White had a drug store here. White was also at Bentley and Rimbey which were located near Bluffton, which may be the town the directory was referring to.

**Bowden.** Samuel Perrin was the first pharmacist in Bowden. A report states that he opened in 1903 yet a photo exists of the Bowden Pharmacy bearing the date 1899. Mr. Perrin, who also ran the newspaper "Bowden News", was here until at least 1918. A. R. McEwen was here after he left High Prairie and before he went to Westlock or Calgary, likely 1920 to 1922, perhaps as a dispenser for Perrin. S. J. Clotworthy bought Perrin's business in 1924. For a period of time, Dr. Carscallen of Innisfail ran the drug store, with Jack Bathgate dispensing in 1928-1929, but in 1930 or 1931 it was bought by Peter W. McNab, formerly of Brooks. Mr. McNab died in 1932. Mrs. McNab kept it open with Sinnott MacDonald as manager. J. R. Monilaws also had worked here in 1932. MacDonald's apprentice was Muriel McNab, daughter of Peter McNab. After she graduated, Muriel managed the Bowden Drug Store and had a local boy, who later became well known to Alberta Pharmacists, Donald Cameron, as her apprentice. Later, as Muriel Johnson, she had a pharmacy in Oyen. Lorne Anderson had the pharmacy in Bowden from 1945 until he closed it in 1950, leaving the town with no pharmacy from 1950 until 1977. Linda Hiller opened Bowden IDA Pharmacy in 1977 and presently practises there.



Breton I. D. A. Pharmacy is awarded the W. L. Boddy Award for Pharmacy of the Year  
l to r: Eli Ambrosie, Elsie and Larry Serediak, George Chornell

**Breton.** Horace Thorley Rayner, an English chemist, came here in 1928 after practising in Bashaw. He was evidently a printer as well for he prepared his own labels and letterheads etc.. Edward Frederick "Fred" Thurston came to Breton from Elnora and practised here circa 1928-1929. Harold Gaetz bought the Rayner business in 1933 and ran it until he closed in 1939 to join the army. John Warchola opened his pharmacy in Breton in 1962 then in 1980 sold it to Larry Serediak who now operates the Breton I.D.A. pharmacy and also acts as the hospital pharmacist.

**Bruce.** Pharmacist H. C. Cooke had a drug store here circa 1920 to 1924.

**Byemoor.** Reference has been made to a drug store here prior to 1930. Dr. H. B. Wickware was registered by A.Ph.A. in 1928 as at Byemoor. An advertisement exists for "The Byemoor Drug Store", Captain DeBarthy, prop.. Sidney DeBarthy came to Byemoor in 1928 and dispensed from his home until the pharmacy was built. As DeBarthy was not a registered pharmacist, it would seem that the drug store was opened under Dr. Wickware's licence. Both men left in 1931 and both settled in Sylvan Lake.

**Cadogan.** Two drug stores were listed in the business directory of 1920: Cadogan Drug Store and Our Drug Store. Pharmacists known to have

practised here include Henry E. "Harry" Malone, some time prior to 1929, and Sidney A. Rawsell. A reference states that a drug store here was run by "Rouzell" then finally by Malone. Both men practised at Morinville in the early 1920's.

**Cadomin.** Al. B. Kluck practised in Cadomin, coming here from Edgerton. A directory states that M. R. Cragg was in Cadomin in 1924, possibly a misprint for Mel B. Cragg. W. D. Goldberg had the Riverview Drug Store circa 1928.

**Calmar.** This town was named after Kalmar Sweden. The first pharmacy was started by Norman Allin of Leduc and was managed by Harold Gaetz. It was later sold to Gaetz and Littlewood. C. Keith French acquired this pharmacy in 1931. The building was owned by Mr. Littlewood, a non-pharmacist. In 1946 Stanley Niddrie became the owner of the Calmar Drug Co.. There was no physician in the town then but the store had an excellent animal health business. A move into a newer building was beneficial but a fire set by vandals destroyed the drug store completely. Mr. Niddrie intended to rebuild but found locums to his liking then settled in Wetaskiwin where he practised at Northern Drug with Wm. Odell until he retired. Presently, the Calmar Pharmacy Ltd. is owned and operated by pharmacist Rudy Seneka.

Citizens of Calmar were well served by French and Niddrie. Keith French was president of the Calmar Board of Trade, president of the Leduc Social Credit Assn., was for years the floor manager of the Calmar Dance Hall, instrumental in bringing electrical power into Calmar and served one year as president of the Central Alberta Baseball League. He was later an M.L.A. when living at Hanna.

Stanley Niddrie was the charter president of the local Lions Club, Draw Master at the curling rink, was on the Leduc & District Hospital Board for 12 years and an alderman for two years.

**Camrose.** The first drug store built in Camrose was erected in 1905 by Humphrey Higgs. In 1906 he sold the business to Eugene Hyman who later was in business in Strome. The store was known as The Red Cross Drug Store and had the first telephone exchange in the town. Hiram McKechnie came from Quebec to work, possibly for Mr. Hyman, from 1907 to 1910, at what he considered a generous wage of \$75.00 per month. John M. Patterson, formerly at Wainwright, was a subsequent owner, years not known, but at least from 1920 to 1923. In 1923, the Camrose Drug Co., as it was now known, was owned by Irving Z. Hills. After Mr. Hills' death, his son-in-law, Stan Bosmans became owner. Neither Mr. Hills or Mr. Bosmans were pharmacists but they had a

number of very fine pharmacist managers including: Bert Groves, Gerry Lang, Don Cameron, Ralph Cooper, John Payne, Alf Anderson, Elner Bjorge and John Chamberlain. The store had the Nyal agency. When Stan Bosmans died in 1965, his wife Myrtle took over the store. She was the daughter of I. Z. Hills and was the first teacher in Camrose. John Chamberlain had been with the firm since 1952, became manager then in 1971 bought the business and operated it until 1987 when it closed after 82 years in the community. Camrose Drug was, at that time, the oldest business in Camrose that had operated on the same site.

In 1908, the S. E. Large & Co. Drug store opened in Camrose. In 1912 a young Theo Bailey began his apprenticeship here. A story is told that Sidney Large borrowed \$400.00 from I. Z. Hills in order to return east and marry his childhood sweetheart. On their honeymoon at Niagara Falls, he ran out of money. He phoned Mr. Hills to say he could not repay the loan but Mr. Hills could have the drug store instead. Thus Mr. Hills got into the drug business.

Also in 1908, pharmacist A. M. Sanders started what was called The Rexall Drug Store. After a few years, Mr. Sanders left Camrose, was in the drug business at Strome then farmed for some years. He later returned to Camrose to operate the Owl Pharmacy. By 1915, Mr. H. U. Johnstone had taken over the Rexall store and as Johnstone's Rexall Drug, carried on in business for almost half a century. His son Malcolm also became a pharmacist and later took over the business. Malcolm R. Johnstone served as president of the A.Ph.A., 1962-1963.

Hugh Bertles was operating a pharmacy here in 1927. Bert Groves bought it and called it Groves Drug Store. Len Dersch and Jack Walker have been pharmacists at this pharmacy. Gerry Galenza purchased the business and now operates it as Groves Value Drug Mart. Barry Galenza and Janet Galenza also are pharmacists here. Mr. Galenza also owns and operates the Gerry Galenza Dispensary in the Smith Clinic building, where Sandra Galenza and Anita Kupka assist.

A White Cross Drug store operated briefly with Vern Boldick as manager.

Theo Bailey enlisted in World War I then after the war he graduated in pharmacy in 1926. He became postmaster of the town for 17 years then returned to pharmacy in 1943 when he and his wife Babe opened Bailey Drug. Apprentices under Mr. Bailey included: Bob Dowling, Stu Bailey and Elmer Bergh.

In the meantime, son Stu Bailey had graduated and with his wife Thelma R. N., opened Stuart Bailey Drug in 1960. In 1962, the two Bailey businesses merged into the present location and was operated by father and son. until it was sold to Robert Borth of Killam in 1973. Theo retired and Stu served as pharmacy director at Rosehaven Care Centre until he was appointed Auditor/

Inspector of A.Ph.A. in 1983.

Jack Cargill opened a drug store at the north end of the city in 1969. He sold this business to Gordon Gaudet in 1976. The store ceased operations in 1981.

In 1979, Glen McCuish opened in a professional centre. This business was sold to Neil MacMillan then later closed, in 1991, when the professional clinic closed.

Shoppers Drug Mart now have a store in a location originally developed by Glen McCuish. Linda Cunningham is manager. The Safeway Pharmacy #150 is managed by Cheryl Eyben.

The Town and Country Guardian Drug is managed by Lawrence McFadyen, a partner of Robert Borth. Thus, at present, five retail pharmacies are in business in Camrose.

Hospital pharmacies are operated in: Bethany Aux. Hospital by Sandra Galenza; Rosehaven Care Centre by Renee L. Helm; St. Mary's Hospital by manager Michael G. Kozuska and pharmacists L. Murray Byers and Shelley Frost.

**Castor.** Castor had two drug stores from 1910 to 1914. The first was opened by Gordon Percival Souch who operated a drug store in 1909 at nearby Williston. When the railway chose to run through Castor, Souch moved. The Souch Drug Store became the Castor Drug Co. when it was bought by partners Wm. Buckham and C. P. Johnston. Mr. Souch reportedly went to Medicine Hat then later was in Edmonton as Dr. Souch, Chiropractor.

George L. Brown opened a second drug store in 1910, which he called "Brown, My Druggist". Brown was a dog fancier and included sketches of his Fox Terriers in his advertising. Brown moved to Empress and his business was taken over by Sid Dorland in 1912 and renamed Dorland's Drugs. Charles P. Johnston dispensed here at about this time.

The two pharmacies merged in May of 1914 and became McDermid Drug (Calgary based chain) with Dorland as manager. This business was destroyed by fire in 1921 but was rebuilt. Other managers include William Acton, 1916 to 1924, F. O. Vickerson, 1924 to 1930's, and H. R. Lackey until the early 1940's. The business was then purchased by S. McLuhan and renamed McLuhan's Drug. In April 1946, Michael J. Bain and Patrick F. Bain took over the business and named it "Castor Drug Store. M. J. Bain had apprenticed with Mr. Lackey and later was a councillor of the town for 22 years as well as mayor for 6 years. Son Michael A. Bain became a later owner of the pharmacy.

An interesting notice in the graduation list of the Ontario College of Pharmacy in 1912 stated that Sydney Stewart-Dunn of Castor had been awarded the College Gold Medal, the D'Avignon Medal for dispensing, the

Pharmacy Medal and was First on the Honour List in order of merit. The notice mentioned that he had apprenticed with his father in England, and was about to practise in Calgary. We have determined that this pharmacist was not F. A. Stewart-Dunn who later headed the School of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta, but efforts to learn more about him have so far been fruitless.

**Chauvin.** The pharmacists we discuss here are listed in their order of registration rather than their arrival time in Chauvin, as we are unsure of the latter. Frank E. Fleming was registered with A.Ph.A. as at Chauvin in 1916 but by 1918 was in Edmonton. Charles Cameron McKechnie, A.Ph.A. 1917, came to Chauvin from Watrous Sask. in 1917 and had his pharmacy here until ill health caused a move to Edmonton in 1941. His daughter Margaret Harvey is also a pharmacist, class of 1943 U. of A.. Mr. McKechnie had graduated from O.C.P. in 1906 and also was an optometrist. The McKechnie business was purchased by Mrs. Hazel Sigurdson who then ran it as a patent medicine store.

Mr. R. A. Snyder operated a drug store in Chauvin. He was not a pharmacist but his son Herb was. A daughter Bea also worked in the drug store. The Snyder family was also in Wainwright. Lorne Mitchell (A.Ph.A. 1926) worked for Mr. Bob Snyder.

**Clive.** Dr. Wm. M. McNab registered with the A.Ph.A. in 1912 and operated a drug store in Clive from at least 1912 until he sold it in 1921, remaining in the town as physician until 1932. H. T. Rayner, who had been at Bashaw, came to Clive in 1921, possibly buying the McNab business, and remained until at least 1929. Sinnott MacDonald operated a pharmacy here, believed to be the former McNab business, in the late 1930's for a brief period. A drug store was reported as "in a fire" in 1937.

**Consort.** W. J. McNeil and his brother operated a drug store here in at least 1912 to 1914. Dr. Mooney is also reported to have had a drug store at about the same time, 1913. He hired Mr. (C.A.?) Bassett then Russell Schoff to staff it. Russell Schoff was reported to be the first pharmacist licensed from the Yukon and his father, Ernest, was the first druggist in the Yukon, however Russell was not licensed by A.Ph.A.. Dr. Mooney died Dec. 1913 at age 24. Dr. A. M. Day, who was registered by A.Ph.A., bought the Mooney store as well as the hospital and retained Schoff until 1916 when Schoff went farming. For a lengthy period Dr. Day was joined by a Dr. Knight. It may be gossip but we are led to believe that Drs. Day and Knight made Ripley's Believe It Or Not. Edna Gottsche, then George Cameron and his sister staffed the store but none were pharmacists. George Cameron left Consort then returned as a graduate phar-

macist in 1923. This business was known as The Consort Drug Store.

J. P. Crowe (non A.Ph.A.) took over from Dr. Day in 1926. Mrs. R. L. Falconer (nee Amy Garbutt) became the next pharmacist owner of the Consort Drug Store and her husband had a dental office at the rear of the store. Amy moved to Coronation in Feb. 1929 and hired Mr. Lewis and Miss. Ursula McLachie to run the pharmacy. McLachie was a pharmacist and may have apprenticed in Consort. Other pharmacists employed by Mrs. Falconer were S. R. Luckham in 1929 and Nellie McComb (later Nellie Estabrook) in 1930 as manager. Mr. Luckham opened a second store, Municipal Drug and Stationery, in 1930, which had a brief life then in Nov. 1932 he opened People's Drug store which had even a shorter life of one month, closing in Dec. 1932.

Raymond Holmes bought the Consort Drug Store from Amy Falconer in 1932 and operated it until he joined the R.C.A.F. in 1942. Howard Pringle purchased the pharmacy and ran it from 1942 until 1956. Son Keith Pringle, pharmacist, worked with his father here briefly. Sam Solden was the next owner from 1956 to 1962 then Fred Lang bought the business and named it Lang's Pharmacy.

Fred Lang's daughter is the well known entertainer k. d. lang. The story is told that Fred and k.d. would lie down at the front door of the drug store and shoot at a target in the dispensary at the rear. k.d. had her own shotgun at age 12. Fred Lang left Consort in 1973 and the business carried on as a non-prescription store with prescriptions being filled at Stettler.

In 1975, Lyle and Pat Jacobsen bought the business and named it Jacobsen's Drug Mart. In 1986, Lyle went to Coronation to manage Bain's pharmacy while Pat remained as manager of the pharmacy and as hospital pharmacist at Consort. Mrs. Rick Deleff (nee Wiechnik) and Alan Trieber assist Mrs. Jacobsen. Emery R. Ostrosky is presently a pharmacist at the Consort Municipal Hospital.

**Content.** A "drug store" existed in Content circa 1911, operated by C. H. Davies (non A.Ph.A.)

**Coronation.** John C. Calder opened the first pharmacy in Coronation in 1911, arriving as the railway pushed through. Mr. Brown advertised his intention to open a drug store as well but did not, choosing to settle in Castor. Calder's store was purchased by Hiram McKechnie and Wm. P. Graydon in 1920 and named the McKechnie-Graydon Drug. By 1922, McKechnie had left and the name became Graydon's Drug.

W. J. McNeil and his brother opened a second drug store here shortly after Calder, also in 1912. He named it McNeil Drug then in 1916 it was renamed Coronation Drugs. Calder and McNeil were both members of the early



Masonic lodge here and both served on town council. By 1922, the McNeil business, Coronation Drug Store, was taken over by J. J. Johnston who also had J. D. J. McDonald as manager later.

In 1924 the two stores became one as Graydon took over the Coronation Drug and closed the old Calder location, thus Graydon's Coronation Drug was the sole pharmacy. Amy Falconer (nee Amy Garbutt) bought this business in 1929 and as Falconer's Drug Store, ran it until Sept. 1934 when she closed it "due to the Depression".

A third pharmacy opened in 1927 (the second at the time) when C. E. Gerhart refurbished the old Calder store. In 1940 he was joined by Ron Coleman in the Coleman-Gerhart Drug. By 1949 this pharmacy was known as Coleman Drug. A local boy, now pharmacist, Rob. Tkach bought the business in 1975 and renamed it Coronation Pharmacy Ltd.. It had the Rexall agency but in 1977 changed to IDA. Michael and Helen Bain bought this store in 1983 renaming it Coronation Guardian Drug. Brenda Wiechnik dispensed here from 1979 to 1986. In 1986 Lyle Jacobsen became manager of this pharmacy and is also the pharmacist at the Coronation Hospital.

Amy Falconer had been mayor of Consort and C. E. Gerhart was mayor of Coronation and also an M.L.A. and Cabinet member. At one time Mr. Gerhart played in a dance band and his hobby was the making of violins of such quality that he was offered \$500.00 (when a dollar meant something) for one. He told how he met his wife: While playing for a dance one night, he left his post to ask a pretty girl for a dance. As they danced she asked if he played in the band. Gerhart replied that yes, he played the bull fiddle. Then, so it is said, she uttered a long and seductive moo-o-o in his ear.

**Czar.** Dr. George B. Mills was registered by A.Ph.A. in 1911 as at Bow Island. He later settled in Czar. In 1928, Reuben P. Munro came to Czar from Leduc. Fred J. Lang had a patent medicine store here.

**Daysland.** John Heber Burrows opened the Daysland Red Cross Drug Store on May 21, 1907. This was one of the first businesses in the town and soon after there was a small hospital and one physician. His drug store had the telephone terminal. Among Mr. Burrows' apprentices were Caroline Schade and Bill Goldberg. Caroline Schade, according to the late Hazel Shipman of Daysland, was the first woman to graduate in pharmacy in Alberta. Fred J. Lang bought the above business in 1943, the same year that Mr. Burrows died. Lang was on the Council of the A.Ph.A.. He had formerly operated a pharmacy at Hughenden and a patent medicine store in Czar. He died in 1948 and Mrs. Lang carried on until she was able to sell the business to Donald M. Cameron in 1949. Keith

Elliott bought this pharmacy in 1957 and Mr. Cameron's career changed direction. Stan Lissack with his wife Sherry (nee Djuve), then operated their S. & S. Pharmacy Ltd. by purchasing the Elliott store. The Lissacks sold their business in 1979 to Gordon Gaudet, a local boy. Gordon's brother Edward was also a pharmacist and had been a representative for the Parke-Davis & Co.. For a brief period Daysland had a second pharmacy owned and operated by Jerry Saik, a Crossfield pharmacist and a former employee of the Gaudets. Gaudets have now sold to Mr. Saik and Daysland once more has one drug store, Jerry's I.D.A. Pharmacy. The pharmacist at the Daysland General Hospital is presently Ray Paul Potvin.

The town of Daysland had pharmacists who served their town and their colleagues very well. Both J. Heber Burrows and Stan Lissack were mayors of the town. Messrs Lang, Cameron and Lissack all served on the Council of the A.Ph.A.. Then three Daysland pharmacists served as president of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, they being, J. Heber Burrows, Donald M. Cameron and Stanley Lissack. Stan Lissack also became president of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association. As well, as most readers will know, Donald Cameron was Registrar-Treasurer of the A.Ph.A. for many years, and also became Western Vice-President of the C.Ph.A.. The offices of the A.Ph.A. are in Cameron House, so named to recognise the service of this pharmacist to his fellow pharmacists.

Quite a record for a small town (pop. 700) with most often only one pharmacy.

**Delburne.** Dr. Victor Trottier was registered by the A.Ph.A. in 1911 as at Delburne and was in practice here until at least 1918. Ernest J. Hooge, after working in Calgary and Okotoks, came to Delburne where he practised during the early 1920's. George Cameron, formerly of Elnora and Vulcan, was listed in the business directories of 1928 and 1929 and he did operate his pharmacy until the late 1960's.

**Devon.** J. Warden Somers, formerly in business in Wetaskiwin, opened a pharmacy in Devon Nov. 1948. He retired due to illness in 1968 and died 1971. Estor Laidlaw, Mr. Somer's daughter, assisted here from 1949 then managed the pharmacy in later years. Jack Walker purchased the business from Estor Laidlaw then later resold it.

Devon now has three pharmacies: The Devon Value Drug Mart managed by D. S. Szyndrowski assisted by Judi Szyndrowski, Donna Oselies Dennis Gilmour and Wendy J. Rudyk. Miquelon Drugs Ltd. managed by B. L. Gilmour with Zelda B. Kause assisting, and Columbia Pharmacy managed by Margaret Lee.



Donna and Laurie Tkachuk  
Drayton Valley

**Donalda.** Leslie Wilfred Bell, who held a N.W.T. licence 1909 and Alberta licence 1914, built the first drug store here in 1911 and had the first telephone in the town. Bell also built and operated the first telephone office. He sold his drug store to Colin B. Murphy and the store name became Bell and Murphy. Murphy, who may not have been a pharmacist, ran the store from 1920 to 1929, in the later years as a general store with a "drug" department. James B. Rhynes operated Rhynes' Pharmacy for at least from 1922 to 1924. Rhynes was later with the Col. Belcher Military Hospital in Calgary. Mr. Bell may have practised later in Drumheller and is likely the L. W. "Shorty" Bell who had a pharmacy in Calgary.

**Drayton Valley.** Howard Pickup came to Drayton Valley in Oct. 1954 and with a partner obtained a pharmacy in 1955. Howard was a son of former Registrar-Treasurer of A.Ph.A., C. W. Pickup. Howard was winner of the Centennial Medal in 1967, the Bowl of Hygea 1968 and was mayor of the town. He retired in 1967 and died 1970.

A. J. Armstrong practised in Drayton Valley. Presently there are three pharmacies in the town: Drayton Valley Value Drug Mart staffed by Laurie Tkachuk, Lucille De Jonge and Loni Johnson. Penny's Drug Mart staffed by Gary Hanson, Heather Bellerose, Janine Sebry and Gwen Reynolds. Valley West Drug Ltd. staffed by Ronald R. Nikiforuk.



Bill Doland presents the Robins  
Bowl of Hygea to Tom Forhan  
1988

The Drayton Valley & District Health Complex pharmacy is staffed by Nadine Jones and Richard Keldsen.

**Edberg.** The business directory listed the population of Edberg as 101 people in 1922 and stated that O. L. Edstrom (non A.Ph.A.) had a "drug store" here.

**Eckville.** There is reference to an early druggist who pulled teeth and who sold his business to a Mr. W. E. Hayes. Mr. (Dr.?) Clare Crosby and W. E. Hayes are mentioned elsewhere as early druggists. Pharmacist T. O. Forhan said that Dr. Clarence S. Crosby was the first to have a drug store here, circa 1914. Dr. W. G. Evans, who was licensed by A.Ph.A., was also an early practitioner in Eckville until 1916. O. M. Forhan had a pharmacy here prior to 1918, which he sold to Crosby in order to move to Red Deer. Mr. Forhan returned to Eckville and was in business from 1928 to 1951. His son, Thomas O. Forhan, graduated in pharmacy in 1939 then practised in Eckville from 1941 to 1989, during which time he was an active sportsman and served as mayor. In 1988, Tom Forhan was awarded the Robins Bowl of Hygea for community service. Forhan's Pharmacy has had Judy Lorenz as pharmacist assisted by Bonnie Titford, Joe Tabler and Lois Staudinger. Linda Lutz has been general manager of the store assisted by Tom's son Jim Forhan. A brother to Thomas was pharmacist Allan Francis Forhan who became a sales manager for Schering Canada Inc. in Ontario then later owned Forhan's Pharmacy Ltd. in Ottawa.

Marlene L. Slipp is pharmacist at the Eckville Municipal Hospital.

**Edgerton.** Three physicians appear to have provided pharmacy services to Edgerton in the early days, registered, in the years shown, by A.Ph.A. They were Dr. A. M. McGregor (1916), Dr. W. D. Sorensen (1917) and Dr. Peter Melling (1925). A "drug store" existed from 1920 to 1924 run by Chas. J. Bransgrove (non A.Ph.A.). Pharmacist Al. B. Kluck had a drug store here circa 1928 then Jerome S. Kluck circa 1935. W. A. Thorp, pharmacist, operated a pharmacy in Edgerton which was bought by pharmacist Mike Kondro, dates not known. Ted Stewart had a drug store in Edgerton in the 1950's until he died suddenly of polio in the late 1950's or early 1960's.

**Elnora.** Ed. F. Thurston was listed in the business directory as having a drug store here from 1919 to 1924. He was later at Wainwright, Breton and Strathmore. Percy A. "Peach" Holmes came to Elnora from Calgary in the late 1920's. Brothers Robert A. and George Cameron were at Elnora from 1932 and also at nearby Trochu and Delburne. In June 1978, Donald A. Westersund B.Sc., M.Sc., after operating a pharmacy at Pender Harbour B.C. for five years, opened the Elnora Food and Drug Store and presently operates Elnora Pharmacy.

The pharmacy at the Elnora General Hospital is staffed by R. G. Rose.

**Erskine.** David Alexander Volume, who held a N.W.T. pharmacy licence, was at Erskine when he received his A.Ph.A. licence in 1911. J. L. Waite, pharmacist, was here in at least 1922. Dr. Norman Wells Connolly was registered as at Erskine by the A.Ph.A. in 1917 and was here at least until 1920. Frances Stewart was listed as having a "drug store" here in the directories of 1924 to 1929.

**Ferintosh.** Dr. John Robert McLeod came here in 1902 and named the town after his home in Scotland. He was registered by A.Ph.A. in 1912 and had built a pharmacy which burned in 1920. He rebuilt the drug store. After he died, the business was continued by Dr. Drinnan and his nurse Bessie McDonald for many years then it was operated as a "Patent Medicine Store" by Inge Olsen.

**Forestburg.** The first pharmacist here was Henry Wilberforce "Buck" Rogers who was registered here in 1917 and had a business here until at least 1923. Harry F. Hardin purchased the Rogers store and was in business in the mid 1920's before moving to Edmonton. John Lawson Gerow was the third pharmacist in Forestburg having come here from Wainwright to buy Mr. Hardin's business. He was followed by Haddo and Muriel Meikle who were in business from 1942 until 1962 operating a combined drug store and coffee shop. Bob and Selma Phillips carried on from 1962 to 1971 followed by Stan

Lissack and Robert Borth in 1971. Dennis and Lynn Ponto ran the drug store from 1973 then Bob and Vinetta Murray have been operating the Forestburg IDA Pharmacy since 1988.

**Gadsby.** Frederick James Long, who was registered with the N.W.T. Ph. Assn. then with A.Ph.A. in 1911, was in business in Gadsby. An advertisement for his store has been seen in which the name is given as F. B. Long. Hedley Hart "bought the store in Gadsby" in either 1913 or 1915 and practised here until 1934. He was forced to leave due to drought and as there was no doctor there nor need for a pharmacist at the time. Mr. Hart had formerly been at Stettler with his brother and was later at Cochrane. A series of subsequent owners ran a Patent Medicine type store there for some years including Messrs. Brubaker, Gibson, Young, Jordan and Fisher in 1958.

**Galahad.** G. A. Holben or Holden (non A.Ph.A.) had a "drug store" here for many years. He had been in Galahad since 1918, was mayor in 1940 and 1948 and had acted also as postmaster, telephone exchange, embalmer. Miss. Annie Goodhall (A.Ph.A. 1928) practised here but whether in Holben's store or elsewhere is not known. Mrs. Helen Fewster (nee Dickson) had a drug store here from about the mid 1950's to the late 1960's.

The Galahad Hospital Pharmacy is staffed by Ray Paul Potvin.

**Halkirk.** Dr. George A. Massiotte was registered by A.Ph.A. as being in Halkirk 1915. Dr. Joseph Schiller, (A.Ph.A. 1919) operated Halkirk Pharmacy until 1921. Dr. R. S. Welsh (non A.Ph.A.) was listed in the business directories as having the drug store from 1920 to 1924 followed by A. G. Hackett (non A.Ph.A.) in 1928, 1929. The Halkirk Drug Store was advertising in 1937 with proprietor George Hiles (non A.Ph.A.).

**Hanna.** Dr. J. Grant had the first drug store in Hanna in 1913, variously entitled: My Druggist, Alma Drug Store, Red Cross Drug Store. A second drug store was opened in 1914 by C. P. Johnson called Johnson The Druggist and in 1920 he bought the stock and records of Dr. Grant and closed Grant's store. Johnson had Mr. Buckham as a partner in 1914, and employed pharmacists R. H. Gilchrist, James Grant and Wm. M. Robertson during this period. Hanna's one pharmacy then was bought by J. R. Darling as Darling's Drug Store, until 1925 (although another opened at about the time of Darling's arrival). Charles A. Wylie came to Hanna in 1925, bought the Darling store and named it Wylie's Corner Drug Store, and ran it until 1946.

Many town pharmacists were also at times the local dentist, veterinarian,

and sometimes insect exterminator. Charlie Wylie was all of these and the latter art bears description. If a farm house had bed-bugs, Charlie would be summoned. The family vacated, doors and windows were shut tightly. One window was left open and a five gallon crock containing sulphuric acid would be placed inside under that window. Cyanide crystals, tied in a cheese-cloth sack, were lowered by binder twine from outside until they met the acid and the window was quickly closed. The poisonous gas did the trick.

The Wylie business became the French's Drug Store, owned and operated by C.Keith French. While in Hanna, Mr. French was an M.L.A. and also recipient of the Robin's Bowl of Hygea. In 1960, Martin Valentine purchased the business which became Valentine Central Drugs. G. Dale Simpson managed the Valentine business when Mr. Valentine left Hanna then in 1964 Simpson purchased the business, then operated Simpson's Pharmacy for the next 23 years until Randy W. Kary and Paul Ainscough bought it in 1987 and they call it the Hanna Value Drug Mart. Barbara Knauff is presently the pharmacist/manager.

In 1920, a competing pharmacy was opened by Emory Shillito as the Shillito Drug Store and he was in business for 26 years until 1946. Evelyn Laughlin was an apprentice with Mr. Shillito from 1933. Shillito and Wylie were examples of competitors who could also be good friends. Nelson J. Devereaux was the next owner and must have been quite busy in 1948 as he was also elected president of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association the same year. Devereaux Drug was well known for the product "Gopher-Cop" for which Mr. Devereaux obtained a patent. Son Jim Devereaux still remembers mixing Gopher-Cop with a paddle while it was heated in a large copper tub. Mr. W. Patemore was the next owner (date unknown) then his Patemore Drug was purchased by Orville Gamble who operated Gamble Drug. Stewart Drug was opened in 1966 by Jerry Stewart and he continued until 1986 when Calvin Warnock became the owner as the Hanna Pharmasave. Mr. Warnock is assisted by pharmacists Tracey Simpson and Heather Brown.

Three pharmacies were in business in Hanna in 1923-1924 as Stan Cope opened the Cope Drug Store.

The Hanna General Hospital is staffed by pharmacists Calvin Warnock, Tracey Simpson and Heather Brown.

**Hardisty.** A small pharmacy of sorts was operated in conjunction with his medical practice by Dr. Albert DeBrisy Callbeck, who was registered by A.Ph.A. in 1911. The names of Allen A. Cruickshanks and Charles M. Eddington appeared on the register of the A.Ph.A. in 1912 as at Hardisty as did L. W. Bell in 1916. Eddington may have had a drug store as some recall his widow operating a "patent medicine store" for a while. Robert Walter

McKinnell took over the Callbeck business in 1917 or 1918 and began a long career in Hardisty. He had previously had pharmacies in Regina and Ponoka. His daughter Margaret recalls her father and Mr. H. H. Gaetz of Red Deer sitting in the back of the drug store, either here or at Ponoka, planning a curriculum for the proposed School of Pharmacy at about this time. Margaret worked a great deal in pharmacy and managed this one when her father was ill. Son "Mac" apprenticed with his father, graduated in pharmacy, did some retail work then represented Mowat and Moore in Southern Alberta. He then went with Food and Drug Dept. in Toronto and obtained his Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. Other apprentices were Walter W. Frickleton who later had a pharmacy in Vulcan, and Mrs. A. E. Henry who was later at Alix and Rosyth.

Following Mr. McKinnell's death in 1963, Margaret McKinnell, with pharmacists assisting, kept the store until it was sold, in 1966, to Alan L. Thompson. As well as operating the Thompson Drug Store, Alan was a part-time pharmacist with St. Anne's Hospital for 4 years then for the Hardisty General Hospital for 2 years. The hospital presently has pharmacist Ray P. Potvin. Alan Thompson was a town councillor for 3 years. Thompson Drug was in business until 1989 when it was sold to Susan M. Ferguson who presently operates Ferguson Drug. Mrs. Ferguson is an active horsewoman and talented artist. Under different owners, this pharmacy has existed for at least 81 years.

**Hay Lakes.** Horatio C. Cooke had the Cooke Drug Co. here at least in 1927-1928. A business directory listed J. Carberry (Non A.Ph.A.) as having a "drug store" here 1928-1929.

**Heisler.** John Buckland, (non A.Ph.A.) was listed in the directories as having a "drug store" here 1920 to 1924.

**Highland Park.** George E. Kennedy had a pharmacy here in 1913 or 1914. He also practised at Delia and Stettler.

**Hobbema.** The first pharmacy in Hobbema was opened by Cindy Bailey (Gordichuck), a pharmacy graduate of 1977. She is a third generation pharmacist, daughter of Stu Bailey and grand-daughter of Theo Bailey. The Hobbema Pharmacy was purchased in 1991 by Lynne Hoff and has Roberta Taylor assisting.

**Holden.** Wm. E. Hayes, who held a N.W.T. licence, was here from at least 1911 to 1916. Dr. S. J. Farrell was listed as a pharmacist from 1915 until at least 1929. Jimmie A. Third and Clayton Thomas Third operated Third



Brothers Drugs circa 1924. Walter R. Stewart came to Holden in the mid 1920's following employment at Liggett's. E. J. Williams had a drug store listed in the business directory of 1928-1929. Art Greenwood, a 1934 pharmacy graduate, had a pharmacy in Holden for many years. All the above were registered pharmacists.

**Hughenden.** Dr. E. A. Ferguson opened a drug store in his home in 1914 then had a separate store in 1915. McKennell Drug & Stationery was listed in a 1920 directory. It seems likely that this would be a branch of McKinnell Drug of nearby Hardisty. George R. Carruthers came here in the early 1920's and took over Dr. Ferguson's business. He died in 1928 then Fred J. Lang came from Camrose and operated this pharmacy until he left Hughenden in 1943. It then became a variety store.

**Innisfail.** John Field arrived in 1896, after practising in Brighton England and Calgary, to open the Innisfail Drug Co.. John Field moved to Kelowna B.C. where he died in 1928. In 1906, William Geary bought the Field business and renamed it Geary's Drug Store. Another building was erected by Geary's father using native Innisfail brick. The drug store moved into the new premises and it is still housing the present day pharmacy successor. John C. Calder began a long career in Innisfail when he arrived from Coronation in 1919, bought the Geary store and building for \$3,000.00, and put up his sign; Calder Drug. Calder had been an Innisfail resident in 1905. An Innisfail native, Edgar L. Jackson, purchased the Calder business in 1954, and Jackson's Drug Store Ltd. is presently nearing the centennial of Innisfail's first pharmacy.

Miss. Annie Simpson opened Innisfail's second pharmacy in 1902. This was an historical event. Not only was this the first pharmacy to be opened by a woman in Alberta, Annie Simpson was the first female pharmacist to graduate in Western Canada. Her brother James was the first M.P. for the North West Territories. He loaned Annie \$500.00 to open a drug store if she would do so in Innisfail, where he lived. Her Simpson's Drugs was successful, to her brother's surprise. She sold it, in 1914, to Jarvis Wm. Currie who renamed it Rexall Drugs. Norman Badcock bought the business in 1921 and thus began another long pharmaceutical career in Innisfail. In 1949, Badcock sold to R. E. Berscht, a non-pharmacist, who employed Roy. R. Saunders as pharmacist/manager. Harvey Housman purchased this business in 1952. Mr. Saunders stayed on staff until his death in 1960. Mr. Housman took on partners Larry Verbitsky and Heather Verbitsky, both pharmacists, and renamed the business Parkland Pharmacy. Mr. and Mrs. Verbitsky now own the pharmacy which has a 90 year history.

Innisfail Pharmacy was opened in 1976 by Housman and Verbitsky as a prescription centre in a medical clinic. Innisfail's fourth pharmacy was opened in 1978 by Donald E. Goyen and called Innisfail Value Drug Mart. The Innisfail Coop Pharmacy opened in 1978 but closed in 1989.

Other pharmacists who have practised in Innisfail include: Joel Stiles, who apprenticed with Miss. Simpson, E. O. Fallis, Thomas Little, M. Maybank who apprenticed with Mr. Geary, George Law, Lois Kremer and Hattie Law who apprenticed with Mr. Calder, Noel Farrow, Charles Suggett, Ethel Carr, Helen Dickson, Margaret Oxtoby, Stuart Munro, Cheryl Gelinis. Pharmacists at the hospital pharmacy include Cheryl Gelinis and Brenda Bird-Cantelon.

**Irma.** Hy Bruce Armstrong was a 1911 registrant but could have been here earlier. Harry W. Love was in Irma from at least 1915 to 1918. Dr. A. M. McGregor, who had been the first physician in Irma in 1909, obtained a pharmacy licence in 1916. In 1920, Clarence A. Bassett had a drug store listed in the business directory. Thomas John Derman, a N.W.T. registrant had a drug store here in 1924.

Walter W. Frickleton had a pharmacy here circa 1927-1928.

**Killam.** Louis A. L. Murphy is thought to have been the first pharmacist in Killam, being there from at least 1911 to at least 1918. We can be certain that Mr. Murphy was in business during the Great War of 1914-1918 as it was reported in March 1916 that "Mr. Murphy, of Killam, was fined \$50.00 for non compliance of the Patent Medicine War Tax. This is the first such action in Alberta". This tells us of one of the problems retail druggists must have had in those war days.

Mr. Murphy sold to Leander Roy Harvey who bore a 1919 registration. Mr. Harvey died in Killam in 1942. His daughter Mary, a pharmacist, returned from Vancouver to help her ailing father for one year. Hamilton R. Lackey came from Castor to operate Lackey's Drug Store from 1942 until 1962. Edward Borth bought the Lackey business in 1962 then his son Robert E. Borth took it over in 1964 and continues to operate Town and Country Guardian Drugs assisted by Gordon Gaudet. Pharmacists who assisted the Borths include Tom Blair, 1962 to 1964 and Irene Black 1972 to 1979.

In 1916 a second pharmacy was opened by Clarence E. Jamieson. Mr. Jamieson had vivid memories of the 1918 'flu epidemic. All medical supplies were used up and difficult to replace. Five doctors in the surrounding area lost their lives to the 'flu. Mr. Jamieson was forced to his bed as well, but recovered. Mr. Jamieson left Killam in the fall of 1919 to open a pharmacy in Calgary.

The pharmacy at the Killam Health Care Centre is managed by Bryan Iverson.

**Lacombe.** The first drug store was opened in 1903 by H. Howell or Harry Howe, reports vary. The telephones arrived the same year. Roy E. Collie, an O.C.P. graduate of 1906, was the next to arrive and has been thought by F. O. Vickerson to have been the first pharmacist in Lacombe, thus Howell may have not been qualified.

Arthur Creighton had a pharmacy here, possibly known as the Lacombe Drug Co., at least prior to 1906 when Neil I. McDermid arrived to provide Lacombe with a second drug store. When the McDermid Drug store burned down, Mr. McDermid bought the Creighton business and Lacombe, once more, had just one pharmacy. Mr. Creighton was reported to have then retired, however he maintained his A.Ph.A. registration until at least 1918, with Lacombe as his address as did R. E. Collie until 1916. A prescription label exists, known to have been in use prior to 1912, for the Alberta Drug Co. Ltd., L. Overton Dispensing Chemist, Lacombe Alberta.

Neil McDermid moved to Calgary but employed manager Sydney Bird as manager from 1910 to 1918. F. O. Vickerson was an apprentice under Bird. Donald A. Lothian then became a long time manager of McDermid's until 1930. By this time, Mr. Vickerson had been with McDermid Drug at other locations and had become a shareholder in the company. He now returned to Lacombe as a partner and the business became Vickerson-McDermid Drug Co. Ltd.. By 1943 he was sole owner of Vickerson Drug Co. Ltd.. Frank Oliver Vickerson was an active citizen and sportsman of Lacombe for many years. His father had been an active supporter of the Liberal party and this is how his son was named after the politician Frank Oliver. Many well known Alberta pharmacists worked here either as graduates or apprentices, including: Doris Douglas, Jack Pearson, Harold Henker, Duke Ferguson, Jack Corbett, Vern Neely, Pres Winter, Mickey Jepson, Myrtle Magnusson, Eileen Alexander and nephew Don Vickerson. Mr. F. O. Vickerson died in 1992 at age 92 years.

In 1969, This business was sold to Leonard Corkery who retained the former name of the store. Bob Bailey became a partner to Corkery in 1974. In 1987, Len and Bob, who now owned the Sweet and English Pharmacy, amalgamated the two to form the present Vickerson's Value Drug Mart.

E. O. Follis had opened a pharmacy in opposition to McDermid Drug, possibly in 1919, so once more Lacombe had two drug stores. This business was purchased in 1924 by William Carlyle "Carl" Sweet who ran it until 1946. Son Gordon Sweet, who had apprenticed with his father and with Jack Agnew at Jasper, following war service, took Sweet's Pharmacy over in 1946 and ran it until 1967.

Dean English had opened a third drug store in Lacombe, and now in 1967 he and Gordon Sweet joined as partners and had the Sweet and English



F. O. Vickerson receives 50 year certificate from Borys Ferbey 1972. Walter and Joan Boddy look on.

Pharmacy Ltd. in a new and larger building. They carried on until 1976 when, due to poor health, Mr. English retired and the business was sold to Bob Bailey's "Bailey Drug Ltd." Brother Ronald Bailey managed this store, still trading as the Sweet and English Pharmacy until it was closed in 1987 by merging with the Vickerson Value Drug Mart. Len Corkery was and is a partner with Bob Bailey.

The Ritten Pharmacy was opened in 1977 by Ron Ritten, formerly with Jackson's in Innisfail. In 1983, he was joined by partner Clark Jantzie who had formerly been employed at the Sweet & English Pharmacy. The pharmacy is now known as Ritten's Pharmasave #317, and pharmacists Elaine Pallister and Patricia Eaton have been employed there. In 1989 the partnership opened the Lacombe Clinic Pharmacy, employing Earl Oberst as pharmacist in this specialized pharmacy. Wayne Turner is pharmacist at the Lacombe Health Care Centre pharmacy.

**Leduc.** There is a record of a drug store being opened by a Dr. Sutherland here in 1901, operated in conjunction with his medical practice. The first pharmacist to open a drug store in Leduc was John Carter. The date of his arrival is not known to us but he registered with A.Ph.A. in 1914 and left in 1918 to live in Laverna Sask.. Some other early pharmacy registrants who gave Leduc as their address were: Dr. Treadgold (1911), Dr. Whillans (1912), Dr. Rush (after 1911), Emery Shilleto (1915), John Laurence English (1914 to 1918), J. Herman Wilson (1913), but we have no evidence of them being in business.

In 1904, Alex Sloane ran the drug store in the (Dr.) Sutherland Block.



Leduc scene 1930s.

Pharmacist and Veterinarian Dr. S. H. McClelland (A.Ph.A. 1921) had a "second" store in Leduc, probably the one Sloane had run, as he sold it to Reuben P. Munro in 1928. Munro was reported to have bought the store formerly run by Sloane. In 1928, McClelland left Leduc. He later established McClelland's Veterinary Supplies in Calgary. Munro later practised at Czar after selling his Leduc business to David McHarg.

Charles A. Mooney opened Mooney's Drug Store, possibly in 1916 and was in Leduc until at least 1922. Mr. Fred Lang Sr. worked with Mr. Mooney. At about this time circa 1922, the Allin and Stephen Drug appeared owned by Norman W. "Itchy" Allin and H. D. Stephen. Stephen did not live in Leduc and was not registered by A.Ph.A.

In 1947 The Allin and Stephen Drug was purchased by Orville Taylor. Three Taylor brothers were all local residents and pharmacists, Bruce, Jim and Orville.

Recent pharmacies in Leduc have included: Nu-Way Drug Mart, Essam Lachine mgr., Town and Country Drug Mart, Myrna Kwasnecha mgr., and Walker's I.D.A. Drug, Gary Falkenberg, mgr.

Presently in Leduc are six pharmacies: Leduc Medical Arts Pharmacy, Thomas Keller mgr., Leduc Value Drug Mart, Nestor Worobets, mgr., McHarg Drugs Ltd., David McHarg, mgr., Pharmasave #322, Linda Lundy, mgr., Safeway Pharmacy, Dwayne Lynds, mgr., Shopper's Drug Mart, Gary Falkenberg mgr..

**Lougheed.** Dr. G. A. Kelman was given non-voting status in the A.Ph.A. 1912 which he maintained until 1916. George R. Carrothers established the Lougheed Drug Store in 1913. He sold his business to John Ray Johnston in 1922 who carried on the store until at least 1928. Johnston had been at Sedgewick and was later at Beaverlodge. Walter Bamforth, who had apprenticed in Redcliff, came to Lougheed in October of 1928 and practised until he joined the R.C.A.M.C. in 1941. Mr. Bamforth erected the first Neon sign in Lougheed. After the war, in which he served as a pharmacist, he was in business in Calgary.

**Luscar.** Dr. W. H. Hills, who had been registered by A.Ph.A. in Ponoka in 1914, came to Luscar later. We do not know if he had a pharmacy.

**McLaughlin.** A "drug store" existed here in 1914 only, which was operated, so states a business directory, by John R. Cornish (Non A.Ph.A.).

**Meeting Creek.** George Bradt, in 1920 to 1924, then A. Carlson in 1928-1929, were reported to have had a "drug store" here, but neither were registered by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

**Millet.** Two early pharmacists in Millet were John H. Lines and Wm. E. Anderson, both registered when A.Ph.A. was formed in 1911. John L. English practised here as well as at Leduc. H. C. Cooke had a drug store listed in the 1924 business directory for Millet. Graham's Pharmacy was operated by J. R. K. Graham circa 1927-1928. Allin's Drug Store was in business in the early 1930's, owned by Norman W. "Itchy" Allin, who was also in Leduc. Gordon Edwards managed this pharmacy. It was purchased by Edwin T. Woods sometime after 1933 but Allin later reassumed ownership. A. Douglas practised here in the later 1930's or early 1940's then enlisted. Fred Lang Jr. bought Allin's in 1951. When he went to Consort in 1962, his mother ran the business as a patent medicine store. Linda D. Wollen presently operates the Millet Pharmacy.

**Mirror.** Charles L. Suggett, who had been at Innisfail, operated the Suggett Brothers Drug Store in Mirror from at least 1914 to 1918. A drug store was listed in the 1922 directory as being owned by G. H. Smythe. Nelson J. Devereaux came to Mirror from Wainwright circa 1922 and had a pharmacy here. Jack Fleming also worked in Mirror.

**Mirror Landing.** C. W. F. Geaudette & Co. had a drug store here in 1913 or 1914. Pharmacist Geaudette also practised in Granum, Warner & Calgary.

**Monitor.** It has been reported that the first drugs sold in Monitor were sold by Walt Beatson. Clarence Austin Bassett was registered as at Monitor in 1915 and 1916. War veteran John Finlay Gray settled here circa 1921 prior to his stay at Pincher Creek. George E. Kennedy of Delia opened a branch here managed first by Fred Herity then by Mr. L. E. Larder but this Kennedy Drug Co. closed in 1935. Beatson, Herity and Larder were not registered pharmacists.

Brenda Wiechnik, later Mrs. Deleff at Consort, came from Monitor.

**New Norway.** Three physicians have had a connection with pharmacy in New Norway: Dr. G. A. Massicotte was registered by A.Ph.A. at New Norway, Sylvan Lake and Halkirk. Dr. J. S. Sutherland in 1920 and Dr. R. D. Hewson in 1924 were listed under the heading of Drug Stores in the directories of those years. Neither were A.Ph.A. registrants.

**Nordegg.** The Sampson Drug Co. Ltd. was in business here in 1923 then John Rovers was registered as at Nordegg in 1925. William Edgar Hayes, who had been at Holden, had a pharmacy in Nordegg from circa 1927 until 1934. Harmon A. Shipley bought the Hayes business in 1934. Shipley related the firm terms set by the mine manager: He was not allowed to fill prescriptions for mine employees, who had to obtain them from the mine doctor, and there were few other local citizens for whom he could dispense. However the doctor had to purchase his supplies, in bulk, through the pharmacy. On the other hand, Shipley was given exclusive distribution in the town of traditional drug store merchandise, jewelry, sporting goods, stationery, school supplies including furniture. The mine set the rules and enforced them. Shipley had a local agency for flowers. One of his busiest days was also a sad and unfortunate day for the town when there was a disaster at the mines and floral displays were in great demand. Howard Pickup was the next pharmacist in Nordegg from 1947 to either 1949 or 1954 (reports vary) when the mines and Pickup's store closed.

**Olds.** E. Smith, whose prescription label stated he was an "English Chemist" opened in Olds in 1905. Soon after this, O. S. "Tilly" Moore opened Moore's Drug Store. John Paul then operated "The College Pharmacy" some time prior to 1910. The above are all thought to be subsequent owners of the same business entity, but this has not been confirmed. Jack Pearson purchased the Paul business. Then a long time Olds resident entered the picture; Charles M. Becker had Becker's Drug Store here from 1934 until 1974. Since 1974, Joe L. Gustafson has operated the Olds Value Drug Mart.

The opening of the second drug store in Olds occurred shortly after the Smith opening when, in 1906, Matthew R. Maybank and Arthur Creighton



Ross Boake, Ralph Maybank and  
Don Cameron receive Past  
President's Certificate

jointly launched the Olds Drug Co.. In 1910, Maybank bought the Creighton interest and the store became Maybank's Drug Store. The building burned down in 1922. Mr. Maybank and his builder promised that a new store would be built and ready to open in six weeks, and it was. Son, Ralph Maybank, after attending Normal School and teaching for two years, apprenticed with his father and graduated in 1935. The next apprentice here was Don McKeague, thus three presidents of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association came from this pharmacy, Matt Maybank, 1921-22, Ralph Maybank, 1957-58 and Don McKeague, 1958-59, and indeed, one more term.

Ralph Maybank assumed ownership of the pharmacy when his father died in 1942. Matthew Maybank had been the Registrar-Treasurer of the A.Ph.A. from 1926 to 1939 and performed this task from his office desk in the pharmacy. A dynasty was formed when son and grandson Gerald B. Maybank became third in the line to become a pharmacist and subsequently owner of Maybank's. As well, his wife Lorraine is a pharmacist. Gerry entered the firm in 1970, later changed the name to Maybank's Pharmasave, and carried on until recently. Thus Maybank Drug has existed in Olds, under one family, for some 84 years. Presently the former Maybank business is Pharmasave #309, managed by Murray Rousay.

Sport had always been a keen interest of Matthew and Ralph Maybank. Matt had been known to provide jobs, or find them, to enable deserving sportsmen to remain in Olds. Ralph became a skilled hockey goal keeper and in spite of the friendly nick-name "Sieve", he helped his team reach the Western Canada Hockey League finals and also played with the U. of A.



Golden Bears. In fact, Ralph had to make a choice in 1935, to stay with pharmacy or pursue a hockey career. Ralph was President of the Olds Curling Club, Golf Club and Chamber of Commerce. For this and his many other community services he was awarded the Robin's Bowl of Hygea.

For a number of years (1960's?) a drug store was open on the highway to Sundre. The owner attended college in Lacombe. Several pharmacists worked here including Reg. O'Neill.

The Olds General Hospital pharmacy is staffed presently by Bonnie J. Oldring. Lorraine Maybank has also practised here as well as at the drug store.

Some other well known Alberta pharmacists practised in Olds including: H. U. Johnstone, R. Roy Saunders, W. W. Culley, Dick Holeton, Dave Caldwell.

**Paradise Valley.** S. R. Luckham came here from Consort in Dec. 1932. Cecil C. Aston was registered as at Paradise Valley in 1935 and later went to Lloydminster. Muriel Aston practised here in at least 1938 and was later at the Edmonton General Hospital.

**Ponoka.** Robert Walter McKinnell is thought to have opened the first pharmacy in Ponoka, circa 1907. Don Campbell, a brother of the local physician, Dr. W. A. Campbell (A.Ph.A. 1911) became a partner to Mr. McKinnell. McKinnell moved to Hardisty after a short stay in Edmonton and a Mr. Black took over the business about 1915.

Mr. Sydney Bird was the next owner of this pharmacy, probably about 1920, and began a long career in Ponoka and district. The McDermid Drug Co. of Calgary became a partner in this business and likely Mr. Bird shared ownership with McDermid's. Charles Wylie was a later manager and lived in premises above the store. George Willoughby was also associated with McDermid Drug here then later in Lethbridge. Fay Johnson became owner circa 1950. Fay Johnson also served as mayor of Ponoka. His son, Herb Johnson, bought the store in 1952 and ran it until 1967 when the present owner, J. Bryan Corkery took it over. He presently is proprietor of the Corkery Value Drug Mart with pharmacist Dwayne Waknuk assisting.

Another drug store existed in Ponoka for the years from 1914 to 1920 at least and was owned by Dr. W. H. Hills (A.Ph.A. 1914).

A. W. "Red" McKechnie was in Ponoka in 1923, possibly as an employee pharmacist, then in the late 1920's opened his own Ponoka Pharmacy. Syd Bird bought the McKechnie business in the mid 1930's and for a time had two pharmacies in the town. Garnet Ranks managed this business then became owner in 1946. Louis Gorman assisted Mr. Ranks then bought the drug store in 1958. Alan Ogden became the next proprietor in 1982 with Mr. Gorman staying on as a relief assistant. Mr. Ogden called it the Pharmasave #316. This

business has recently become a Shopper's Drug Mart with manager M. A. Lojczyc. Garry Nicholson has assisted both Mr. Ogden and Mr. Lojczyc.

What was then a third pharmacy in Ponoka was opened by Tony Severson in 1967. This was bought by Bryan Corkery in 1970 and later closed.

There are now three pharmacies in Ponoka, the third being Hackett Guardian Drugs. It was opened August 1979 by Walter Hackett and is presently staffed by Clarke Jantzie, Stella Pasini and Margaret Barr.

The Alberta Hospital at Ponoka is staffed by five pharmacists with Lana Wierzba as manager. The Ponoka General Hospital has Deanna Waknuk as pharmacist.

Other pharmacists who practised in Ponoka in some capacity include: J. D. J. McDonald, E. J. Williams, R. C. Humphrey, all very early in the century.

**Provost.** Joseph Herbert Dodds opened the first pharmacy here in 1909. A Mr. Norval Agar was associated with Mr. Dodds in this business which was called at times: Dodd's Drug Store or the Provost Drug Co.. In 1917, Ernest C. Tregale took over the Dodd's business. Mr. Tregale was president of the A.Ph.A. 1937-1939. In Provost, Mr. Tregale put on Minstrel Shows as entertainment. Jerry Kluck purchased this business circa 1942 and relocated into new premises. It had the Rexall agency.

Dr. William Onus York opened the City Drug Store which existed under his ownership at least during the years 1912 to 1918.

W. E. Hayes was listed in a business directory as owner of the City Drug Store in 1924 but he was not a registered pharmacist.

David B. Caldwell was a pharmacist with Mr. Tregale for some seventeen years. Other early pharmacists in Provost include Joseph B. Mackay and R. C. Humphrey.

The Tiffen Department Store was owned by non-pharmacist Les Tiffen. In the fall of 1939, it had a drug department and Gerry Lang was employed as its first manager. W. A. Thorp replaced Mr. Lang in 1942. With partner Don Bethune, Mr. Thorp opened his own Thorp Drug and Photo in Provost in the building formerly occupied by Mr. Tregale and also had branches in Edgerton and Wainwright. They had the Penslar and Nyal agencies. Mr. Thorp was also a skilled watchmaker and did this work as a sideline.

Mr. Bethune, who is not thought to be a pharmacist, became sole owner of the Provost business when Mr. Thorp retired.

Presently the Thorp Drug and Photo Ltd. has Gregory Leibel and Edwina Torpe as pharmacists. The Provost Value Drug Mart pharmacists are Robert G. Hope and Emery R. Ostrosky.

The pharmacy at the Provost Health Care Centre is staffed by G. Leibel and E. R. Ostrosky.

**Ranfurly.** A "drug store" was listed in the business directories of 1918 and 1929, operated by George Arthur (Non A.Ph.A.).

## Pharmacies of Red Deer

G. Ronald Holmes

*The history of pharmacies in Red Deer goes back to the year 1891 when H. H. Gaetz opened the first drug store between Calgary and Edmonton. The population at that time was 280. Today, there are 22 pharmacies serving a city of 56,000 plus an equal number in the surrounding area. Many other pharmacies and pharmacists have made an appearance in Red Deer then vanished and these are recorded in Archival manner. The latter part of the history is still living and being alive will undergo change. This is simply the picture as it appeared at the time it was recorded at the close of the year 1989.* – G. Ronald Holmes

*Editors note: The following is an abbreviated version of the excellent history of Red Deer pharmacies and pharmacists which was prepared by Mr. Holmes. Where practical, we have listed the early pharmacies of Red Deer from the first owner to the most recent. Others appear in chronological order. We encourage readers to examine the complete history which is on file at the offices of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association, Edmonton, the Glenbow Archives, Calgary and in Red Deer.*

Red Deer's first drug store was opened in 1891 by Halley Hamilton Gaetz who had recently completed an apprenticeship with Wendell MacLean in Calgary. A business directory of 1894 lists the Hicks and Gaetz Drug Store for the year 1893 only. As directories then often misspelled names, one may speculate that the name Hicks could be Higgs and if so, this brief associate could have been Humphrey Higgs, later of Wetaskiwin.

In 1899, Roy Cornett became the lone assistant in Mr. Gaetz' Drug Store while still in his final year of high school. This was the start of a long career in this pharmacy. Culminating four years of study and practical experience, Roy Cornett passed his written exams in Calgary in 1904.

The business was incorporated as Gaetz Cornett Drug and Book Co. Ltd. in 1907 when W. J. Stephenson, married to one of the Gaetz family, became a partner and manager of the book and stationery departments.

In 1916, when H. H. Gaetz was appointed the first Professor of Pharmacy at the University of Alberta, Roy Cornett took over full responsibility of the pharmacy department.

H. H. Gaetz was an honoured citizen of Red Deer and his biography, filed at the above places, is well worth reading. He served in many responsible



Roy G. Cornett in dispensary of Gaetz Drug Store 1904

positions including mayor of Red Deer. Professor Gaetz died in 1922.

In 1935, Roy Cornett's son T. R. "Tom" Cornett graduated in pharmacy and joined the firm as an assistant pharmacist. Soon after, Tom served in the Canadian Army and his military career is described elsewhere in this book. In 1946 the Cornetts became sole owners of the company and Tom became president, in 1953, following his father's death. Roy had been active in this pharmacy for 54 years.

In 1961, a second store, Gaetz Cornett Drug Co. (Mountview) Ltd. was opened jointly by the Cornetts and Ken Sproule, with Ken Sproule as manager. In 1965, a third store adjacent to the Associate Clinic was opened and known as the Gaetz Cornett Paramount Pharmacy. The manager was Doris Douglas, a cousin to Tom Cornett. The company also opened a wholesale which is described elsewhere in this book. In 1982, the main store moved across the street. Following Tom's death in 1985, Lois Staudinger became manager followed by Val Langevin assisted by Bonnie Oldring. The book department was managed by Tom's wife, Anne Cornett. The company then gradually phased out. Ken Sproule took over the Mountview store while the Paramount and the main store closed, ending a remarkable 95 years of service to the community.

Many well known pharmacists were employed with Gaetz-Cornett, some



Fraser Currie, later of High River, serves a customer at Gaetz-Cornett.

of whom were: Charles A. Weston, John Rovers, A. W. "Red" McKechnie, Bob Edgar, Howard Pringle, Doris Douglas, Dave Caldwell, Fraser Currie, Ken Sproule, Garry Blair, Val Langevin, Lois Staudinger, Bonnie Oldring, Margaret Dandell, Loretta Blair, and Doug Greig.

Two presidents of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association came from this pharmacy, they being H. H. Gaetz and T. R. Cornett.

Though the name Gaetz-Cornett is no longer visible in Red Deer, the name is well known still and will remain well known. The Gaetz and Cornett families held the respect and gratitude of all who knew them. It is often said that the success and growth of Red Deer in its first 50 years is synonymous with the success and growth of the Gaetz Cornett Drug and Book Co. Ltd..

In contrast to the nearly 100 years of stability of ownership of Red Deer's first pharmacy, the second pharmacy in Red Deer had eleven changes of ownership in its first 20 years. In 1903, the Cawker and Souch Drug store was opened. Later the same year it was sold to R. W. Grieve who renamed it Grieve's Drug Store. Edwin M. Cawker and B. F. Souch later practised in Medicine Hat. Two years later a partner appeared, Mr. Roland E. Berry and the sign read Grieve and Berry Drug Store. In 1907, Mr. Berry left for Vernon and Grieve and Company carried on until Mr. Grieve sold it in 1910 to Mr. Gordon Ball Parker and the store became Parker Drugs. Gordon Sproule, later in Calgary, worked for both Grieve and Parker. In 1913, Parker took in a partner, William Geary of Innisfail,

and changed the store name to Standard Drug Company. In the great economic collapse of 1913, the company ran into financial problems and went into liquidation.. Mr. Parker died in 1919 at age 28.

In November 1913, the insolvent company was bought by W. E. Lord who sold it to E. J. Williams in 1914 who then sold it to R. H. Norris in 1915. Mr. Norris owned the store from 1915 to 1918 and retained Mr. Williams on staff until 1916 when Williams moved to Calgary then Edmonton and finally Ponoka. O. M. Forhan purchased the business in 1918. Mr. Norris, although ill, continued on staff until his death in 1923 at age 40 years. Mr. Forhan sold the firm to Allin and Stephen of Leduc in 1922 who retained it for only one year. Until now, the store name of Standard Drug Co. had been retained through the past six owners.

F. A. Porter, from Minnedosa Man., was the new owner of, now in 1923, Porter's Pharmacy. Mr. Porter was active in the Boy Scout movement, was the first Rover leader in Red Deer and received the Governor General's Medal from Lord Tweedsmuir for his Scout service. Mr. Porter sold his business to R. E. Horsley in 1939.

Two years later, Mr. Porter died suddenly of a heart attack.

Earl Horsley, U. of A. 1938, had come to Red Deer from Liggett's Drug store in Calgary. He operated his pharmacy in central Red Deer until an illness in 1964 and his death in 1965 at age 49. His full time assistant, Beverley Dallas (m. Finlay) had been managing the pharmacy and now continued to do so for the estate until it was sold to Martin Valentine in June 1965.

Martin Valentine, U. of A. 1953, had been in business in Taber, Hanna, and Calgary. He now renamed the former Horsley Drug to Valentine's Drug Ltd. Martin has received strong assistance from his wife Stella who had started a pharmacy career herself prior to marriage. Among other pharmacists who have worked at Valentine Drug are: Doris Douglas, Dave Caldwell, Ken Sproule and Jack Fleming. Valentine Drug continues to operate in the original location, corner of Gaetz Ave. & Ross St., in central Red Deer.

Under several owners, this business has existed in Red Deer for almost 90 years.

The Red Cross Pharmacy existed briefly from 1906 to 1909. It was opened by Reginald H. Brown. In 1907 he moved his store to the N. E. corner of Gaetz Ave. & Ross St. and renamed it "Pharmacy for Quality". He had Gordon Sproule as an assistant here. Mr. Brown was interested in sports and was provincial president of the Alberta Amateur Hockey Assn. 1907,1908. This business was not successful and closed Feb. 1909. Brown went to Archibald Drug in Edmonton then to Calgary where he married.

With only two pharmacies in Red Deer at the time. Red Deer's third, Brown's Drug Store, was opened early 1938 by Fred Brown on the S.W. corner

of Gaetz Ave. & Ross St.. The population of Red Deer then was just under 3,000. In 1940, Brown sold to J. K. R. Graham from Edmonton. Captain Brown served in the army, was badly wounded, and settled in Edmonton as a rehabilitation Officer.

Mr. Graham changed the store name to Red Deer Pharmacy and ran it for just one year.

G. R. Holmes, who had been working in Calgary, was the new owner and the store became known as Holmes Drugs Ltd.. This was a small premises of 750 sq. ft. and contained a 6 stool soda fountain which was enlarged to 12 stools. Such fountains were commonly found in drug stores at that time. Ron Holmes closed the fountain in 1946 and this small drug store became a viable business with a strong nucleus of long time customers and became active in the Surgical Appliance aspect of pharmacy. At age 78, Ron Holmes closed his pharmacy in 1988 after 47 years of practice in Red Deer. *(Editor's note: Mr. Holmes neglected to mention that he received the Robin's Bowl of Hygea for his extensive community service in Red Deer, or that he had been the Editor of the Evergreen and Gold yearbook while at the U of A.)*

Marven Bishop moved to Red Deer from Edmonton in 1951 and opened "Drugs By Bishop" near central Red Deer. It was a small store and the Bishops lived in small quarters behind the store. They enlarged the store two years later. Drugs By Bishop No. 2 was opened 1963 with Bill Stephenson as manager, a position he has held for 27 years. This pharmacy was also known as the Port O Call Drug store. In 1976 it was enlarged and renamed Bishop's Western Drug Mart No. 2 then in 1978 as Bishop's Value Drug Mart No. 2.

In 1964, a third outlet, Drugs By Bishop No. 3, opened in the Eastview Shopping Centre, with Michael Field as manager. In 1973, employee Doug Grinder bought this No. 3 store naming it Eastview Super Drugs, then in 1989 it became Pharmasave No. 333 managed by Gerry Kalmering.

The first store was moved in 1965 into the Professional Building where it continues to operate. It was renamed Bishop's Western Drug Mart No. 1 then Bishops Value Drug Mart No. 1. Beverley Dallas, now Beverley Finlay, has been manager of this pharmacy for 25 years.

In 1981, Marven Bishop opened "Clinic Pharmacy" in the Associate Clinic building. Gary Blair is manager of this pharmacy, assisted by Pauline Pizzey.

Today, Marven Bishop employs 35 full time and part time staff in his three pharmacies. Some of the pharmacists who have practised with Mr. Bishop are: Bill Stephenson, Michael Field, Beverley Dallas Finlay, Sid Stefanyk, Gary Blair, Rosemary Reed, Donald Butler, Shannon Glover, Katherine Williamson, Lilla Tanner and Douglas Grinder.

West Park Drugs was opened in that district in 1960 by David B. Thomson,



Ron Holmes' last day at work  
June 30 1988 after 47 years on  
the corner of Gaetz Ave. and Ross  
St., Red Deer. Photo: Red Deer  
Advocate.

formerly employed at the Red Deer General Hospital. In 1962 he sold it to Kyle Pollock who then operated it until his death in 1982. Dev Aggarwal purchased the business and is the present owner. The store is now West Park I.D.A. Drugs. Pharmacists who have assisted here include: Dale Myer, Sharon Ertl, and Stu Munro.

Tamblyn Drugs Ltd. became the first Canadian chain drug store to locate in Red Deer in 1961. Ben Stephenson, who had been with Tamblyn's in Edmonton, was the manager. This drug store was located in the west wing of the Hudson Bay Co. department store in downtown Red Deer. In 1970, this store moved to the new Parkland Mall in north Red Deer and the name was changed to Super City Drug Mart. In 1978, this pharmacy and many Tamblyn Drug stores was taken over by Boots Drug, a British chain, and as such carried on, still with Ben Stephenson as manager, until he retired in 1986. Gloria Woods (now Gloria Wright) managed until 1987 then Marty Ewanchuk became manager. Boots sold this and many others of its stores to another chain and Marty Ewanchuk was retained as manager of General Drugs.

The Red Deer Co-op opened a pharmacy department in 1962. Managers of this pharmacy have been Larry Serediak, Val Langevin, Luther Lee, Don Saby, Linda Fearnly, Lynda Jensen and Grant Fisher.

A second Co-op pharmacy opened in 1989 in the Deer Park area of Red Deer. C. Joe Tabler is manager. Lilla Tanner is supervisor of both Co-op pharmacies in Red Deer.



In 1970, two department stores opened pharmacies, they being the Hudson Bay Co and Woolco. Abe Aboussafy was the first manager at the Bay pharmacy but died suddenly shortly after. Joan Chapman then Lois Mellor managed the department. The Hudson Bay Co closed their pharmacy in 1973. Woolco pharmacy opened in Parkland Mall under lease from Austin Health Care of Toronto. The present manager is Bryon Wright assisted by Ethel Wythe.

The 1970's saw several new pharmacies in Red Deer. Fairview Drug opened 1971 but owner Don Allen was obliged to close the store in a year or two, due to poor health. The Medical Dental Prescription Centre was opened by Ken Sproule in 1974. It was sold in 1979 to partners Stu Munro and Jack Fleming who took over Sproule's Mountview store at the same time. This dispensary closed when many of the nearby doctors relocated. The Saskatchewan based chain, White Cross Drug, owned by Benny Mah, opened a branch in central Red Deer in 1977. Val Langevin was manager for one year then left to work with Gaetz-Cornett and the White Cross unit closed. Doug Grinder opened his second store in Red Deer, Highland Super Drugs, in 1979. The store became named Pharmasave No. 331 in 1989. Manager is Diane Huebl assisted by Theresa Baumgarten. Millerdale Pharmacy was opened in 1979 by non-pharmacist Ethel Miller, employing pharmacist Dale Underwood as pharmacy manager. This store, located in a professional building, now has Katherine Williamson as manager assisted by Shannon Glover and Gloria Wright. Three Pine Drug Stores were opened in 1979 by pharmacist George Kondrat and his brother(non-pharmacist). The Pine Drug (South) closed after three years. Pine Drug (North) was taken over in 1982 by a bank, who hired a pharmacist manager until it was sold to Jim McGrath, formerly of Drumheller, in 1984. McGrath now calls this pharmacy the Pines Value Drug Mart and has Wendy Spiers as his assistant. Pine Drug (Central) opened in a building in which a number of physicians were to locate. When this failed to take place, the Pine Drug Store closed.

Red Deer continued to expand in the 1980's and pharmacy kept pace. Woodward's Department store opened in south Red Deer in 1981 and had a pharmacy in the store. The first manager of the pharmacy was Neil MacMillan and the most recent, Jane Dixon. This pharmacy closed in 1986. Other pharmacists who were employed here include Linda Fearnly and Mrs. Remenda. Shopper's Drug Mart opened in the Bower Mall in 1981. Franchise owners in turn have been Ed Perezowski, George Kondrat and currently Mark Remenda with assistant Ralph Hope. London Drug opened in south Red Deer in 1983. Greg Eberhart managed the pharmacy from opening until Nov. 1989 when he became Registrar-Treasurer of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. Roxanne



Maria and Ken Sproule

Ronan became the next manager, assisted by Tim Heaton and Sophia Wytsma. General Drugs appeared in 1988 as they took over the Boots chain including the Boots store in the Parkland Mall. Benny Mah is reported as owner of General Drugs, hiring supervisor is Russ Kimmitt and present manager of the Red Deer store is Marty Ewanchuk assisted by Karen Romaniuk. A pharmacy was opened in the Safeway store, Parkland Mall, in Feb. 1989. Manager is Debbie Foley. Dawn Robinson and Carolyn Zandbelt are assistants. Pharmasave Drug Store No 332 and 334 opened in 1989 under ownership of Greg Stakowski. No. 332 in Deer Park is managed by Ron Lower with Bruce Neufeld. No. 334 in Highland Green is managed by Karen Romaniuk with Pauline Pizzey. Glendale Pharmacy was opened in Dec. 1987 by Merv. Dusyk, Administrator of the Pharmacy Assistants Training Program at the Red Deer College. He has been assisted by George Kondrat and Michael Leboldus. This pharmacy is expected to close in March 1990 due to expected nearby competition. Hilltop Pharmacy was opened in Feb. 1989 by George Kondrat in the Medical Arts Bldg. adjacent to the Red Deer Regional Hospital. This pharmacy plans to be open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. with emphasis on professional practice and sick room supplies.

The Red Deer Municipal Hospital set up a specialized pharmacy department in 1960. Prior to this, their pharmacy needs were handled by the nursing staff and they employed a pharmacist in a very limited manner. From 1960 to 1970, pharmacists at the hospital included: Jack White, Loreen Maben, W. E. Butterwick, and Bob Fletcher. Replacing the above hospital was the much larger Red Deer Regional Hospital, opened in 1970. The pharmacy department services a wide area around Red Deer as well as its own in-patients. It provides a Pharmacy Residency Program for pharmacy technicians from the Red Deer College.

Director of this very extensive pharmacy department is Alan Samuelson. In 1970 he had two other pharmacists and now supervises a staff of fifteen. This pharmacy has received a number of awards for its accomplishments. Presently on staff are pharmacists: Donna Lee Kutney, Mary Ann Banks, Ronald Rose, Linda Wong, Linda Poloway, Donna Kwong, Kyoko Stuppard, Evelyn Kondrat, John Grundy, Marlene Slipp, Edward Ertl, Ilze Kocins, Sandra Barron, Stefanie Hanrahan and Harry Ewasiuk. Some of this staff serve the Red Deer Nursing Home as well.

The Mitchener Centre pharmacy have on staff: Denise Stefura, Judy Lorenz, Kathy Mah and Michelle Ewanchuk.

Red Deer College, Pharmacy Technician Program is staffed by: Rock Folkman, Mervin Dusyk and Loreen Hewitson.

**Rimbey.** Charles Rollston registered with A.Ph.A. in 1912 with Rimbey as his address but we have no knowledge of his pharmacy activity in Rimbey although we know he opened a dry goods store here and had been in pharmacy at Sylvan Lake from 1912 to 1918. The first drug store in Rimbey was opened by the White Brothers in 1918. One of these brothers was William James White who had held a N.W.T. licence from 1907 and who had been at Bentley. This drug store was sold to Selma "Mickey" Jepson and she ran it for the next six years then sold it to George Wyllie in 1955. At this time Mickey moved to Bentley where she bought the Bentley Drug from Grant Sanders. While at Rimbey, Mickey had Doreen Hagen as her apprentice.

George Wyllie had the Rexall Agency, then as Rexall disappeared he became affiliated with the I.D.A. group and still later became Wyllie's Value Drug Mart as it is called as this is written. In 1965 assistant pharmacist Don Anderson became a partner with Wyllie to open Alpine Drugs in Rocky Mountain House. Don moved to Rocky to manage the store and by 1980 assumed full ownership. Mr. Wyllie had then hired pharmacist Hugh Dunham as his assistant until he left in 1975 to have his own pharmacy in Pincher Creek. Don Bresnahan then joined the Wyllie staff in 1975, became manager in 1986 then bought the business in 1989, retaining the store name.

George Wyllie, an accomplished musician, then started a new career in the electric organ business. Assisting Mr. Bresnahan have been Lam Nguyen and Barbara Pennoyer. Other pharmacists who have practised at the above pharmacy have included: Lou Gorman, Earl Oberst, Gwen Young, Heather Scarlett and Elaine Pallister.

For a period from 1982 until 1984, the Rimbey Co-op operated a pharmacy department under the direction of pharmacist Stan Schumaker. Following its closure, Gwen Young then rented space in the Co-op and operated "Concept

Drugs" herself for another two or three years. She then closed this venture and joined the staff at the I.D.A. Drug store and still later moved to Bassano where she bought Stiles Drug and runs it as Bassano I.D.A. Pharmacy.

The Rimbey I.D.A. Pharmacy was opened in 1986 by a partnership of Alan Ogden and Jack Walker. In 1989, Merv Blair, who had been working in Wetaskiwin, moved to Rimbey and bought Alan Ogden's share in the business. Blair and Walker then changed over to the Pharmasave franchise. This pharmacy is now once again called the Rimbey I.D.A. Pharmacy and is now managed by Carl Ziegler and Marcia Ziegler.

**Rocky Mountain House.** The first drug store to open in "Rocky" was the Standish Drug Store in 1914. The proprietor was John Lloyd Standish (OCP 1910). In 1917 this pharmacy was purchased by Macklim Pettit Brown (OCP 1910). Possibly Standish and Brown were classmates. The M.P. Brown Drug Store was sold to Tom Brownlie in 1933 and perhaps with minimum expense, the sign was changed to Brownlie Drugs. Tom Brownlie ran his pharmacy from 1933 until his death in 1961 when it was taken over by Robert Stronach who carried on under the Brownlie name until his death in 1965. Mrs. Stronach immediately hired Don Maconochie to run the pharmacy and sold him an interest in the business. At that time the name of the store was changed to Rocky Clinic Dispensaries Ltd.. Two years later, in 1987, the pharmacy was sold to Shopper's Drug Mart which it is today with Don Maconochie as franchise owner.

Harold Killick, after working a year with Merrick Drug in Edmonton, opened a pharmacy here in 1932, a year after his graduation. His family had a retail business in "Rocky" known as the "Killico Stores", groceries, dry goods etc., and Harold opened his pharmacy in conjunction with the department store. The pharmacy did move into a new location and Harold Killick had his Killico Pharmacy here from 1932 until 1959. At that time the Hudson Bay Co. bought out the entire Killico Stores including the pharmacy with the exception of the pharmaceuticals and narcotics, which Harold had to give to a local pharmacy. Don Cameron served part of his apprenticeship with Mr. Killick.

Harold had the role of modern day pioneer of sorts because of his isolated location at the end of rail and many residents turned to him for advice. In particular, since the nearest veterinarian was 50 miles distant, he had to attend to many livestock problems. As well, Rocky was often without a medical doctor and the pharmacist's council was often sought. Interviewer Ron Holmes suggests that Harold write a book of his experiences which he thinks would be a "Best Seller".



At left Harold and Marie Killick meet with Bob Symon, centre and Bill Stiles and Marg Symon at right, and others, 1981.

After closing his drug store, Harold did some relief work then had a pharmacy in Stettler. Now in his "80's", Harold has returned to retire in Rocky Mountain House.

In 1965, Alpine A.R.P. Drugs was opened by a partnership of Don Anderson and George Wyllie of Rimbey, with Don and Kay Anderson residing in Rocky and managing the pharmacy. The store was expanded in 1978 then in 1980, Don and Kay became sole owners. In 1985 the store had a further expansion and Kay Anderson became manager of a card and gift section. In 1979, the store joined the Value Drug Mart group and in 1985 that 84 store group named Alpine Value Drug Mart their "Store Of The Year". The Andersons have a pharmacist daughter, Joan, who practises in Grove Drugs at Spruce Grove and their son Grant was in his fourth year of pharmacy at U. of A. as this was written.

Guardian Drugs opened in 1985 as the third store at the time in Rocky Mountain House. Pharmacist Norman Kwan had purchased the building in which Brownlie Drug was located and when that pharmacy moved to a new location, Mr. Kwan immediately opened his own pharmacy in that building and it remains the only drug store in the centre of the business section.

The hospital pharmacy at Rocky Mountain House is staffed by Gregory C. Carpentier.

**Rosyth.** Mrs. A. E. Henry, nickname at university "O", was registered as at Rosyth in 1927 then went to Alix.



Don and Kay Anderson  
Rocky Mountain House

**Rowley Station.** Business directories listed Dr. A. Kerr (1920) and J. A. Key (1924) as having a "drug store". Neither (perhaps the same person, name misspelt) were registered by A.Ph.A.

**Ryley.** The Hill and Sanders drug store existed here in at least 1911. Unconfirmed speculation suggests that J. N. C. Hill (A.Ph.A.1912) and A. M. Sanders (A.Ph.A. 1911) may have been the owners. Dr. James L. McPherson had a drug store from 1914 to at least 1929. Reference has been made to Annie M. Goodhall (A.Ph.A. 1928) having had a connection with Ryley. Mickey O'Brien is reported to have been here in the middle years of this century. There has been no pharmacy here for the past thirty years.

**Sedgwick.** Clarence Purvis opened the first pharmacy here in 1906. Howard S. Purvis joined his brother in the Purvis Pharmacy in 1911, the same year that Clarence died. George Crooks purchased this business in 1923 and called it Crooks Drug. Ralph Cooper bought the Crooks business in Jan. 1948, renamed it Cooper's Drug. This store had the Rexall agency then, perhaps before and certainly after. Lorne French was the next owner, operating Lorne's Pharmacy from 1967 until 1988. David Danko purchased this long established business in June 1988 and calls it Dave's Pharmacy.

Another pharmacy existed in Sedgwick in at least 1922. The J. R. Johnson, Druggist store was operated by John Ray Johnson who was later in Loughheed and Beaverlodge. Dr. E. A. Ferguson held registration from A.Ph.A. and was in Sedgwick in the late 1910's but his pharmaceutical role here is not yet known.

**Stettler.** Stettler's first drug store was opened in 1906 by Mr. William Dunlap and Walter J. Hart and was called the Dunlap and Hart Drug Store. The first prescription was dispensed Jan. 8th 1906 and by July of that year, 500 more had been dispensed. Mr. Hart left to open his own pharmacy in Stettler and the store became the Dunlap Drug Store then, by 1910, the Dunlap Drug Co. Ltd.. The trading name of the drug store was changed to The Palace Pharmacy.

Mr. Dunlap fitted glasses, pulled teeth in addition to his other duties. He was not a pharmacist so pharmacists were employed including, in the mid 1920's, F. O. Vickerson and Margaret V. Bennett. A clerk in the store, Clara Shimmess, and Oliver Vickerson thus met and later married.

Son Jack Dunlap graduated in pharmacy in 1936 and returned to take an interest in the business and gradually take it over. Another son, Stuart William Dunlap, also became a pharmacist. Jack left to enlist for the 1939-1945 conflict and settled in Edmonton after the war. Stuart Dunlap took over and managed the business until 1962 when he sold, and left to practise in Banff at Harmony Drug.

William Dunlap served on the first Stettler town council, and was always an active citizen. An avid golfer, he requested that after his death that his ashes be scattered over the Stettler Golf Club links.

W. C. Masters Jr., formerly of Brooks, purchased the assets from the Dunlaps in 1962. Bill Masters changed the name to Master's Pharmacy Ltd.. When he demolished the old building to erect a new one, he found that there had been three floors laid over the years.

In 1974 this pharmacy was sold to Lamont Sommer who renamed it Palace Pharmacy (Eastco Drug Ltd.). He was joined by Leslie Gilbert in ownership and the name was changed to Central Drug Ltd., operating under the Pharmasave banner. Mr. and Mrs. Masters still reside in Stettler.

A second drug store opened in Stettler in 1910 and Mr. W. J. Hart, who had been with Mr. Dunlap, was the proprietor. Mr. Hart employed his brother Hedley as an apprentice and later as a pharmacist. Hedley Hart later practised at Gadsby and Cochrane. The Hart family was related to the well known Massey family who later built Hart House in Toronto, naming it after that family. This store was taken over by Ron Lee and non-pharmacist Jack Ellis, who operated it as The Rexall Drug Store. In 1961 or 1962 this pharmacy was purchased by Harold Killick formerly of Rocky Mountain House. Mr. Killick operated this pharmacy for the next ten years. For eight of those years his able assistant was Alan Samuelson who later took charge of the Regional Hospital Pharmacy in Red Deer. Mr. Keith Becker bought this business in 1972, renaming it The Heartland Pharmacy. The business was bought by Doug McPherson who operated it briefly until he sold to Peter Hodgson and Lamont Sommer.

During this period, pharmacists R. Weisf then Brian Carter were employed. This pharmacy ceased operations and closed.

A pharmacy was opened by George E. Kennedy in either the 1920's or 1931, reports vary. Kennedy was also in Delia. Floyd Page, a 1934 registrant giving Stettler as his address and who by then had opened Stettler's fourth drug store, bought the Kennedy business and merged the two. In 1958, W. J. "Bill" Campbell became the new owner and named it Campbell Drug. Mr. Campbell died in 1962 and Mrs. Campbell was able to keep the pharmacy open by the kind assistance of opposition pharmacists Harold Killick and Alan Samuelson who did the dispensing until a buyer was found. Peter Hodgson was the new owner and called his business Stettler Drug Ltd.. Mr. Hodgson also had the hospital contract for 8 years and was active on council and as a school trustee. In 1981, Neil McLeod purchased this business and is the present owner of Stettler I.D.A. Drugs.

The Co-op store had a pharmacy for about two years in the early 1980's.

Bryan Corkery opened the Stettler Value Drug Mart in 1984 and it is now one of the three pharmacies in Stettler. It was managed by Rossanne Grant and now by Mike Chase with Patrick Kinshella assisting.

The Stettler Hospital pharmacy is staffed by Charlotte Chase and Bryan Iverson.

Some other early pharmacists who practised in Stettler were: Dr. D. Graham, N. W. Connally, Oren C. Olson and Fred Thurston. Frank Bennett apprenticed here.

**Strome.** A drug store existed here in 1910, owned by W. E. Maynard. It is not known if this man was a pharmacist. S. Victor Carmichael (M. D.?) was registered by A.Ph.A. in 1911 as at Strome. Pharmacist George A. F. Shirran had a business here from perhaps 1914 to 1924. Eugene Hyman, who had held a N.W.T. licence, operated the Strome Pharmacy circa 1913-1916. Hyman had been in business in Camrose from 1906. Other pharmacists who practised in Strome, either as owners or assistants, include: Albert M. Sanders, H. C. Cooke, K. Cairns, and A. E. Greenwood.

**Sundre.** Sundre's first pharmacy, McKechnie Drugs Ltd., was opened by Archie McKechnie in January 1962. Archie was a third generation pharmacist in the McKechnie family, moving to Sundre from Calgary at that time. Archie was an ardent sportsman and found Sundre a perfect setting for his life style. He was instrumental in having a hospital built in Sundre. Archie McKechnie died suddenly in 1990. William Bailey, who had been assistant pharmacist at McKechnie's, then became proprietor of the Sundre Value Drug Mart and a



second pharmacy is presently the Pharmasave 337 operated by Kirk O. Kluchka. Ronald G. Rose is pharmacist at the Sundre General Hospital.

**Sylvan Lake.** The first drug store here was opened in 1912 by cousins Joseph Marshall and Charlie Rollston who had just arrived from Ireland. Arriving in Calgary on April 12, 1912, they were startled by newsboys calling "Disaster At Sea". This was the sinking of the Titanic. They were both druggists but only Rollston registered with A.Ph.A.. Their venture was successful and they branched out into groceries and dry goods as well. Joe returned to Ireland in 1919 but returned to the Alberta sun in Eckville where he ran a hardware store until 1964. Charlie settled in Rimbey where he had a dry goods store.

Subsequent to the departure of Marshall and Rollston, Dr. W. W. Naismith operated a drug store in conjunction with his medical practice from 1926. Mr. DiBarthy bought this venture. He claimed to be an English Chemist but A.Ph.A. disputed his credentials so he operated as a patent medicine store.

A second drug store was opened at about this time by Hal Roach who sold his store to Charles A. Weston in 1931. Weston had been with Gaetz-Cornett in Red Deer prior to this. His store was named Weston's Pharmacy. He had the Rexall agency, the Victor gramophone, records and radio agency and installed a small soda fountain. In 1939 the store was destroyed by fire. Charlie Weston bought the DiBarthy stock, combined it with what he had salvaged from the fire, and relocated into the DiBarthy premises allowing DiBarthy to continue living in a small building behind the store. Soon war broke out, Charlie enlisted in the Medical Corps as he had done in World War I and his wife Bernice then ran the business as a patent medicine store for a while, then closed it.

V. M. (Vern) Neely who had been in Delia and Edmonton, opened Neely's Drug Store in Sylvan Lake in 1937 and ran it until 1948. Don McKeague worked for Neeley in the late 1930's.

Howard Gilchrist bought the Neely business in 1948, calling it the Sylvan Lake Drug Store. Unfortunately Howard died soon after and Mrs. Gilchrist kept it open until she was able to sell it to Cecil Ritz.

The Ritz Drug Store opened in May 1951. Cecil Ritz had been with Douglass Drug in Calgary then was a representative for the Ayerst, McKenna & Harrison Pharmaceutical Co., resigning to re-enter the retail field. The store location was moved three times. Cec was active in community affairs and served on town council. During his 33 years in Sylvan Lake he received strong support from his wife who kept the books. Cec. suffered ill health and a pharmacist was employed during the latter days of the store. Cec. died in 1984. Mrs. Ritz carried on until she was able to sell the business.

In 1985, Don Fischer came from Drumheller to purchase Ritz Drug and



Charles A. Weston and his pharmacy, Sylvan Lake 1930s.

retained the store name, adding I.D.A. as he had that affiliation. In 1989 he enlarged into new premises and presently runs the pharmacy with assistant Lois Staudinger.

A second pharmacy to the Ritz drug was the Value Drug Mart opened in 1979 by Clement Chang. The store was relocated and renamed in 1984 and became Guardian Drug. Shortly after, this store changed hands when Val Langevin of Red Deer and Ron Ritten of Lacombe bought it. In 1987 Langevin bought out the Ritten interest and in 1989 changed the name back to Value Drug Mart. From 1984 to 1989, Greg Carpentier assisted here then moved to the Rocky Mountain House hospital pharmacy. Val has also had as his assistants; Miles Brosseau, Jane Schafer and David Hammond.

Others who have been registered by A.Ph.A. in Sylvan Lake have included: Leslie Garfield Hilborn (who may have been in business here in 1922), Dr. Massiotte who left in 1921, Charles Garbert, 1921, and Dr. H. B. Wickware, 1933 to 1938.

**Thornton.** Chester S. Kemp was a pharmacist in business here at least from 1911 until 1914.

**Thorsby.** The C.P.R. built a line from Lacombe, through Rimbey reaching Thorsby in 1929. Thorsby Drug was opened at this time by Mr. Norman "Itchy" Allin who had a business in Leduc. One of the first pharmacists in this store was Keith French who remained as such until he moved to Calmar about 1931. Mr. French was replaced by Howard Armitage who remained until the store was sold for \$600.00 to Mr. Joseph Ruzicka in 1935. Joe Ruzicka had his pharmacy in Thorsby from 1935 to 1967. Walter Boddy apprenticed here before and after W.War II and before that, in 1933, had packed ice in the ice cream freezer for Mr. Armitage, six days a week, for 50 cents a week. As an apprentice, Walt was paid \$5.00 for a week of 12 hour days. Dr. Myers Hankin occupied the same building as Thorsby Drug and his patients used the drug store as a waiting room and returned the same way with their prescriptions which were cheerfully filled by Mr. Ruzicka. Walter Boddy recalls that this pharmacy had a good animal health business and sold several veterinary products manufactured by Mr. Ruzicka. Hockey fans gathered at the store Saturday nights to hear Foster Hewitt broadcast the hockey games from Toronto.

Bruce Taylor, formerly at Edmonton, purchased this business in 1967 and is being managed by him and Bob Taylor with assistant Audrey Tobiasson at the present time.

**Three Hills.** Pharmacy in Three Hills originated in 1908 when Dr. Thomas Sawdon set up a small pharmacy. He later registered with A.Ph.A.. When Dr. Sawdon's son, Austin Sawdon, graduated from U. of A. in 1935, he took over the pharmacy which he named Sawdon Pharmacy. He operated it for 30 years until 1965. Doris Caroline Sherring (nee Wyndham) was a pharmacist at Sawdon's.

Austin Sawdon sold to Doug McPherson who changed the name to "Capital Drugs" and continued to operate it until 1978.

Mr. McPherson sold to partners John Toplensky and John Martens who continued to operate it as Capital Drugs from 1978 to 1980. At that time John Toplensky bought out the Martens interest and John Martens moved to Elk Point where he opened his own pharmacy.

A second pharmacy opened in Three Hills as a result of a delegation of some Three Hills citizens who approached Harold Waterbury whom they had heard was available. They had found that the doctor's store was often closed when they went to it, he of course being busy with his medical practice. Thus, in 1933, the Waterbury Drug Store opened. Mr. Waterbury had just closed at Blackie so moved his stock and fixtures in one truck and their household effects in another and began a successful 31 year career in Three Hills. Store rent was

\$35.00/month and they found a cottage in which to live for \$10.00/month. Later, in a new building, Waterbury installed a soda fountain, had the Greyhound Depot, and had the first air-conditioning system in the town. Clayton H. Richardson was a pharmacist with Waterbury Drug.

In 1964, this pharmacy was sold to Tom and Eileen Alexander. Eileen was the pharmacist and Tom the store manager. Their store was known as Alexander Drugs. Mrs. Sherring also dispensed here.

For a brief time in the early 1970's, a pharmacy was opened by Miles Brousseau but it closed shortly after.

John Toplensky then bought the Alexander business in 1972, operated the two drug stores until 1987, then closed the former Alexander store and consolidated the two businesses into an enlarged Capital Drugs. The store is now known as Three Hills Pharmacy and Mr. Toplensky is assisted by pharmacist Peter Tiong. The pharmacy at the Three Hills Health Care Centre is staffed by Maureen Arvidson and Cindy Malaka.

**Tofield.** Clarence E. Jamieson opened a pharmacy here in 1906 or 1907. He went to Killam in 1917 then later to Calgary. James L. Hammond was registered as at Tofield in 1911. J. Warden Somers operated a pharmacy here from about 1916 to 1922 when he sold it to Arthur Appleton Beirnes. Beirnes had been in Didsbury but now practised in Tofield until at least 1928. Howard B. Gaetz was reported to be here but we have neither the year nor position. George E. McFadzean opened the Tofield Pharmacy in 1938. McFadzean was the son-in-law of Hedley Hart of Gadsby and Cochrane. Presently the Guardian Drug is operated by Darren Erickson assisted by Cynthia Ully and the Owl Value Drug Mart by Roland Perrott.

The Tofield Health Centre pharmacy is staffed by Gladys S. Whyte.

**Trochu.** Arthur A. Keir, while dispensing at the Banff hospital, heard from patient and pharmacist A. Creighton, that Creighton intended to open a drug store in the Trochu Valley but was now too ill to do so. Mr. Keir bought the Creighton stock, being stored at Olds, and, with it, set out for Trochu by horse and wagon. Thus Keir Drug opened in 1910. A fire in 1914 forced a move to a new location with living quarters above. This store was called Keir's Cash Drug Store. In 1919, this structure burned as Mr. & Mrs. Keir and their two babies narrowly escaped. The next building lasted until Mr. Keir sold in 1944. A. A. Keir was president of the A.Ph.A. in 1924-1925. Daughter Eileen (m Kalbfleisch), Bob Cameron, Randy Murray, Charlie Cameron, Bill Cornyn all apprenticed here. E. Fred Thurston practised in Trochu, year not known.

James Balkwill Sr., formerly drug department manager at Eaton's, Calgary,

bought the Keir business in 1944 and ran it until his death in 1958. Son James G. Balkwill and his wife, the former Grace Miller, both pharmacists, managed the drug store for Mrs. Balkwill Sr. then in 1969 they bought it and presently run it. In 1976 and 1977, the Balkwill's operated "Balkwill's Silver Cash Register", an Airstream mobile pharmacy, serving Elnora & Delburne. Margaret Ottosen of Huxley handled the unit. Margaret Richards has also been a pharmacist at Balkwill Pharmacy Ltd.. A long time clerk at Balkwill's is Sinaida Danforth, who has been there over 44 years.

The St. Mary's Health Care Centre pharmacy is staffed by James Balkwill, Isabel Whyte and Margaret Richards.

**Veteran.** Edgar Clare Hogarth had the Veteran Drug Store from 1915 until at least 1924. Albert Wilfred Holmes, formerly of Lamont, was in business with a drug store here as noted in a business directory of 1928-1929. Dr. David Lander was registered by the A.Ph.A. as at Veteran in 1937 but was soon to move to Black Diamond and Turner Valley.

**Viking.** Dr. Storey had the first pharmacy in Viking in 1910 and employed Bert Tovey to manage it, followed by pharmacist Ernest Roy Field, possibly in 1919, then Mr. Moderwell. Horatio C. Cooke bought Storey's in 1918. It was then known as the Viking Drug Store. Clarence A. Bassett was either an assistant or manager during these years. Dr. Monkman of Vegreville also had some connection, possibly in Dr. Storey's time. The Sloane Drug, a chain based in Edmonton, had branch stores, one of which was in Viking. It seems this would be the same pharmacy referred to above. H. Peter Stock was a manager for the Sloane store circa 1924. Stock was later at Hussar then Wetaskiwin. Edgar N. Stiles, also of Bassano and Hussar, owned this Sloane associated pharmacy in Viking from 1935. He had the Rexall agency. H. J. "Jack" Pullen bought the Stiles business in 1955, calling it the Viking Drug Store.

A second drug store was opened in 1963 by Marjory Howery, now Mrs. Fraser McKay and she called it the Crossroads Pharmacy.

In 1969, Pres. Winter, his pharmacist wife Patricia (nee Knechtel), and Robert Borth of Killam bought the Crossroads Pharmacy. In 1972, the Winters bought out the Borth share. The Winters have been very active community workers in Viking.

1972 saw Viking again became a one pharmacy town as the Winters bought Pullen's Viking Drug Store, combined the two stores into one and Jack Pullen joined the staff. Deborah Wemp (m. Hill) became the third pharmacist on staff in 1976.

From 1976 to 1979 there were again two pharmacies as Mrs. Joan Weeks

opened her Viking Drug Mart. Pres Winter bought this business and had pharmacist Susan Wemp manage it until it was converted into a variety store in 1980. Susan Wemp and her sister Deborah Wemp joined the staff at the now 4200 sq. ft. Crossroads IDA pharmacy. Susan Wemp left, to be replaced by Wayne Maycher in 1982. Presently the three pharmacists on staff are Pres. Winter, Patricia Winter and Deborah Hill.

Pres Winter began providing pharmacy service to the Viking General Hospital in 1976 then was followed by Jack Pullen. Wayne A. Maycher is presently pharmacist at the Viking General Hospital.

**Wabamun.** Dr. Charles E. Carthew and Dr. W.E. Anderson both were registered by the A.Ph.A. in 1916, but the first directory listing of a drug store under the Carthew name was in 1922 and until 1929. Carthew's name appears associated with many northern Alberta towns and in Edmonton. Wabamun was without a pharmacy for many years until about 1980 when a drug store was opened. It is now owned and managed by Ronald D. Marcinkoski.

**Wainwright.** Mr. E. C. Logan opened Wainwright Pharmacy in 1908. The business still operates in the same location and under the same name today. Mr. Logan was an active citizen and evidently popular as he topped the polls in a 1910 election for council.

Mr. R. A. "Bob" Snyder had a financial interest in this pharmacy, then in 1910, took it over. There is no evidence that either Logan or Snyder were pharmacists however pharmacists were employed, first Stanley McLuhan from 1910 until 1928 other than for some time off for service in World War I, then Fred Thurston came from Elnora to Wainwright from 1929 until he left for Strathmore in 1941. Mr. Thurston, from all accounts an honest and well meaning citizen, grew a plant in his garden which had a pretty blue flower. It was called "hemp" by the local gardeners. Mr. Thurston was shocked one day to be visited by the local "Mountie" who informed him that the growing of that plant was illegal since it was marijuana.

Vera Priscilla "Bea" Snyder graduated in 1948 and served in the Wainwright Pharmacy from then to 1955. Earl Lane, a local boy who had become a pharmacist, also worked briefly at Wainwright Pharmacy until he joined the navy in 1942.

Wainwright Pharmacy was purchased by James H. Muir in 1976.

A second drug store was operated by John Lawson Gerow 1913 to the late 1920's. Lorne Mitchell, with associate Alec Adams, then owned this pharmacy. In 1942, Mitchell joined Herb Snyder, son and successor of R. A. Snyder, who took over this drug store and closed it. The Gerow/Mitchell businesses



Snyder's Pharmacy, Wainwright 1953  
 l to r: Herb Snyder, Vera Snyder, Lorne Mitchell

may have had other previous owners and was known by at least four names: Wainwright Drug and Stationery, Red Cross Pharmacy, Gerow's Drug Store and Standard Pharmacy.

Thorp Drug and Photo opened in Wainwright in the 1940's, it being a branch of that firm from Provost. An employee of Mr. Thorp, Don Bethune, was manager then eventually the owner. Bethune had Joe Rohrer on staff.

White Cross Drug opened in Wainwright in 1975 but closed in 1981.

Presently, Wainwright has two pharmacies: Wainwright I.D.A. Pharmacy, where Manager James H. Muir is assisted by Eileen Anderson, Marilyn Fraser, Gordon Stewart. Thorp's Value Drug Mart, managed by Norbert F. Leidl with assistant Theodore Bzdel.

The staff at Wainwright Pharmacy also dispense at the Wainwright & District Health Care Complex.

Other pharmacists who have practised at Wainwright include: Nelson J. Devereaux, J. M. Patterson, C. A. Bassett.

**Wetaskiwin.** John H. Walker, one of Wetaskiwin's early citizens, an associate of the famous Bob Edwards with the town's newspaper, the Wetaskiwin Free Lance, a meteorologist and a pharmacist, opened Walker's Drug Store in 1892 and this pharmacy is thought to have been Wetaskiwin's first. Another early drug store was owned by a Mr. R. C. Ward who comes to our attention as the man from whom Humphrey Higgs purchased his drug store in 1902. Ward and Higgs may have been associated in business. We have no other data on Mr. Ward nor the date of his opening. The A. E. Gayfer Drug Store, which also had

the first telephone exchange, was open in 1903 but Mr. Gayfer died in 1907 at age 39. By 1906 there were three drug stores in Wetaskiwin. Higgs business was known variously as H. L. Higgs (1912), Red Cross Drugs (1912) and Northern Drug and he had, for a time, two drug stores in the town. Richard Oatway, who had "30 years experience", appeared in Wetaskiwin for a short period circa 1911. He had telephone No. 1 which might indicate he had taken over the Gayfer store. Oatway was later to practice in Stony Plain.

H. B. Wilson was a partner of Mr. Higgs in the second Higgs store in East Wetaskiwin, east of the C.P.R. tracks. Wilson and Higgs also had a pharmacy in Vernon B.C. in 1922. Higgs bought out his partner in 1925 then in 1928 moved to Cardston.

There was also a Dr. Ethel Mary Magill who was a "Lic. Apoth. Soc. London" member, date unknown. Dr. Magill was also a physician, had a small hospital in Wetaskiwin and probably carried a stock of medicines.

Pharmacists who practised in Wetaskiwin prior to World War I include: Wm. James Kennedy, T. F. Ball, J. H. Rose and apprentice Herb Carlson. W. Frank Rook worked for Higgs 1908 to 1915 and was later in business in Calgary.

J. Warden Somers came from Tofield in 1922 to purchase the two pharmacies of H. L. Higgs, which had the Rexall agency. The east store burned down in the 1920's and was not reopened by Mr. Somers.

"Wardy" Somers was an energetic town booster and self-termed "Practical Druggist" in Wetaskiwin until 1946 when he sold to Wm. Odell and Jack Walker (grandson of John H. Walker), and left to start a pharmacy in Devon. Mr. Somers' daughter is Estor Laidlaw, also a pharmacist, and she worked with her father in Wetaskiwin and Devon. In 1952, Bill Odell became sole owner of Northern Drug and remained so until 1978 when he sold back to Jack Walker who then sold an interest in it to Ron Bailey who later became full owner.

Another early pharmacist here was Horatio C. Cooke who left Viking to come to Wetaskiwin in 1924. Keith French apprenticed with Cooke 1925-1926. Ron Truswell, a cousin of Jack Walker, was also an apprentice with Cooke. Cooke had the Nyal agency. This pharmacy was sold to H. Peter Stock in 1932. Mr. Stock had practised in other central Alberta towns including Viking and now began a long career in Wetaskiwin. When Mr. Stock died in 1969, his daughter Maxine Nicol, also a pharmacist, and his son Gordon carried on in Stock's Drug Store until 1981 when it was purchased by Ron Bailey. Maxine continued to work in the pharmacy until she retired and until the drug store was closed.

Herb Anderson, who had apprenticed then practised at Northern Drug for some ten years, opened the Driard Pharmacy in 1938 in the Driard Hotel



building. Anderson manufactured and sold some of his own products in the Animal Health field.

John A. (Jack) Shillabeer and partner Jack Walker bought the Anderson business in 1952, retained the name Driard Pharmacy, and ran it for several years. Shillabeer and Walker were also partners in the MacDonald Hotel Pharmacy in Edmonton. Son John Shillabeer and daughter Catherine are also pharmacists and daughter Mary is a pharmacy technician. John assisted at Driard Pharmacy when ill health forced his father's retirement. Jack Walker became sole owner then and ran the store as Walker Drug until he sold part ownership to Ron Bailey in 1979, and continued working until retirement in 1985. Jack Walker had been the pharmacist at the Wetaskiwin hospital for some time on a part day basis. Jack Shillabeer also managed the pharmacy in the Wetaskiwin Hospital on a full time basis from 1971 until retirement. Jack Shillabeer died in 1989. Both Jack Walker and Jack Shillabeer served on the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

Several well known Alberta pharmacists practised or trained in Wetaskiwin. Apprentices at Northern Drug include: Ed Kadlec, Glad Grant, Bert Groves, Herb Anderson, Doris Hanna, Abe Aboussafy, Estor Laidlaw, Jack Shillabeer and Leonard Dersch. At Stock's: Jack Walker, Gordon Groves, Maxine Stock Nicol, Hal Gaetz and Reg O'Neill. Others known to have been in Wetaskiwin include: Earl V. Lindskog, Fred S. Wilson and Frederick Charles B. Wilson; at Driard Pharmacy, Earl Lane and Tim Hausen; at Odell's Northern Drug, Stan Niddrie, Harry Allen, Marjorie Howery, Jeanne Houle Rouse, Dick Keldsen and apprentice Gerald Howatt; at Walker's, Charlie Rouse and Don Vickerson. At Stock's Don Merner and Bert Burke.

Wetaskiwin has come a long way since it was named, with a population of 1,600, as the smallest city in the British Empire. There are now five pharmacies in the city: Northern-Guardian Drugs staffed by Kay Venance, Barbara Ganske, Mary Pueschel; Pharmasave #320 with Gitta Pitschmann & Robert Bownes; Shopper's Drug Mart with Neil Olstad & Herbert Zelt; Safeway Pharmacy with Daniel Tetteh & Gloria Ouellette; Value Drug Mart with Ron Bailey, Glen Muzyka, Gail Latawiec, Ledla Kuefler, Rodney Bleakney, Judy Weaver.

Pharmacists at the pharmacy of the Wetaskiwin Hospital District are presently Catherine Wetterberg, Cindy McMinis, Lori Jordens, Andrew Ivanik & Connie Lussier.

**Winfield.** After practising at Thorsby, Howard Leslie Armitage had a pharmacy here for several years before moving to Calgary in the late 1930's where he opened in the Uptown Theatre building. Mrs. Bunney (nee Nellie Thrasher) operated a drug store for several years which was closed in the late 1980's. Estor (Somers) Laidlaw was with Mrs. Bunney in Winfield for three years.



Jack Shillabeer, Wetaskiwin, as  
"The Magician," 1955

*The following are thanked for their contributions and information for many of the communities in this chapter: Stu Bailey, Michael Bain, Nell Estabrook, Susan Ferguson, Tom Forhan, Harvey Houseman, Edgar Jackson, Gerry Lang, Bill Masters, Margaret McKinnell, Eileen J. Anderson, Neil R. Olstad, Bill O'Dell, Dale Simpson, Doris Sherring, Jack Walker, Charles Weston, Presgrave and Patricia Winter, Harold Killick, Orpha Smith, Neil Olstad, Eileen Anderson and The Wetaskiwin Archives.*

## Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Edmonton

by Donald M. Cameron

THE HUDSON BAY Company constructed a number of forts along the North Saskatchewan River in the late 1700's. Among these was one, called Fort Edmonton, built in 1795. It was destroyed by fire, but a new, well fortified location was built in 1820 on the approximate site where the legislative building of the province of Alberta now stands. It was, for a number of years, the chief fur trading point for that part of the North West Territories. For the next 50 years, this point was the centre for traders, missionaries and travellers going up and down the river.

Surely there were some drugs available at the fort. These would have included whiskey, tobacco, paregoric, petrolatum, beeswax, licorice powder, rhubarb powder, and essence of strawberry. No doubt such chemicals as magnesium sulfate, castor oil, sulfur and forms of mercury could be obtained.

In addition the plains and woods Indians had many preparations. Some are in use to this day. In fact, no less an authority than Kerry Wood, noted author and naturalist claims that the Cree Indians were "the finest native herbal doctors the world has ever known, and they traded some of this knowledge for the largest Indian tribal territory on both North and South America."

Students of history may wish to review some of these "cures" which may be found in the text, "The Medicine Man", A Historic Day in the Life of a Cree Camp. The book is authored by Kerry Wood and illustrated by Audrey Teather. It is available by writing to Kerry Wood, Box 122, Red Deer, Alberta.

Many of the diseases which decimated cities and communities in the old world were unknown in North America before the coming of the white invaders. Outbreaks of diseases, previously unknown, took a terrible toll of the North American natives. They usually had no cure or preparation for a disease which was being experienced for the first time.

There seems no doubt that missionaries, who left the shelter of a fort to bring light and knowledge to natives in a particular area, would have had some first aid capacity. They soon assimilated the lore of the native community to add to their store.

In 1874 the Royal North West Mounted Police arrived in Edmonton bringing protection to settlers and traders. It can be assumed that they brought such up to date knowledge and preparations as medicine and pharmacy had available at that time.

This chapter will relate the history of pharmacy in Edmonton:

- a) from the beginning of Edmonton to the end of World War I;
- b) from the end of World War I to the end of World War II;
- c) the years following World War II.

The first pharmacy in Edmonton, and very probably, the first in Alberta, was opened and operated by Dr. Herbert Charles Wilson in 1882. Herbert Wilson was born December 7, 1859. He graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy and immediately commenced his medical studies at Trinity Medical School, Toronto, which granted him an M.D. degree in 1882.

Leaving then for Edmonton by the overland route, from Winnipeg, he entered medical practise. Coincidentally, he opened and operated Edmonton's first drug store. In 1886 Wilson's Drug Store was sold to Philip Daly.

Daly was not a pharmacist but history records state that he was a very remarkable man. He was, according to the advertisements gleaned from the Edmonton Bulletin of 1881-99:

- a banker
- an agent, e.g.: P. Daly, Agent FOR THE:
  - Manitoba Loan and Trust Co.
  - The Standard Loan and Savings Co.
  - The Sun Insurance Office of London, England
  - Manitoba Insurance Co., and a real estate agent
  - 300 lots on Fraser and other improved avenues

By 1891 Daly was operating two stores which were sold to George H. Graydon in 1894.

Graydon's Drug Store and Cowles Drug Store are the names that come to mind when discussing the first drug stores in the history of Edmonton.

Read, if you please, some of the advertisements of the 1890's:



Graydon's Drug Store, Jasper Ave., about 1896.

### 1. POST OFFICE-DRUG STORE

The undersigned having purchased from Bole, Wynn and Co., Winnipeg, the drug business lately carried on in Edmonton by P. Ross will open a complete new store in a few days. A full line of drugs and patent medicines etc.. Only fresh and strictly pure drugs will be kept in stock.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SPRUCE

the leading cough mixture of the age

G. H. GRAYDON, GRADUATE, ONTARIO COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Note: Peter Ross was the pharmacist employed by Phil Daly.

### 2. Try Graydon's Anodyne Expectorant

A SURE CURE FOR COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS

Free delivery in South Edmonton

### 3. Miss Cyclist

If we mistake not you will find the Ladies 1899 Red Bird Models the daintiest Bicycle creations every put on the market. Beautifully finished, of exceptional strength and wonderfully easy running. They are certain to please you.

Samples will arrive in a few days. Call to see them at:

MACDONALD'S PHARMACY



Frank Cowles at right, about 1900

4. Rx means "TAKE" PRESCRIPTIONS

We will take special care to fill prescriptions correctly and promptly and know that our drugs are absolutely pure. We take no chances on this latter point and you can't afford to take any chances in the filling of your prescriptions.

We want your prescription. None but competent men handle the drugs in your prescription.

GEO. H. GRAYDON

Post office drug store Edmonton.

(It seems there were no women in pharmacy in the 1890's!)

5. From the South Edmonton News, March 11, 1895

"One More River to Cross"

It's not necessary?

As I beg to inform the people of South Edmonton and district that I have opened up a COMPLETE stock of drugs, patent medicines, Druggists sundries etc., all fresh and of the best quality and am therefore prepared to supply everything usually kept in a FIRST CLASS DRUG STORE at right prices for CASH.

Doctor's prescriptions and family recipes carefully compounded from purest materials, day or night.

FRANK COWLES DRUGGIST AND CHEMIST

PIONEER DRUG STORE

three doors West of P.O. block.

Of special interest is the fact that no addresses appear on ads. Why? Edmonton was a town and it is assumed that everyone searching knew where everyone was located.

In fact, no addresses appear in the Edmonton telephone directory until 1935.

In the early recordings Edmonton and Strathcona were two separate – very separate municipalities. There remains evidence, if not by spoken word, then by inference, that some regarded, and still do, Strathcona as the hub of the universe and Edmonton as “that place across the river”.

The very earliest records have been reported. The Edmonton Archives reveal that in 1905 there existed, within Edmonton, drug stores operated by A. Archibald, E. M. Carpenter, G. H. Graydon, J. H. Lines, D. W. MacDonald, A. A. Morrow, and J. M. Sissons. Strathcona listed Frank Cowles, Hugh Duncan and Jas. W. Morris.

The aforementioned were joined in 1907 by the Algonquin Drug, the Edmonton Drug Co., and T. Gagner.

By 1909 the number had been swelled by the addition of G. S. Armstrong Drug, T. G. Carson, Kinistino Pharmacy, Laval Pharmacy, MacNeil and Co., and Norwood Pharmacy.

In 1910 Smith's Drug Store had come upon the scene.

By 1911 Edmonton was growing and new stores were opening further from the original “downtown”. New names appeared such as Earle Hardisty, J. McCallum, C. J. McKinnon, Market Drug, W. E. Maynard, and Namayo Medical Hall.

Heath's Drug and Thomson Drug came into being in 1912.

No less than four new names made the roll call in 1913. They were The Alberta Pharmacy, Capital City Pharmacy, Jas. W. Findlay, and K. W. Kenny Mitchell.

In 1914 there was an explosion of new pharmacies. No less than one dozen burst upon the scene. Why would such have occurred? To quote the probable



George S. Armstrong, 1901, and Stephanie A. "Tini" Andrews span some 90 years of Armstrong Drugs existence.

headline of 1992 it could be guessed that "The opposition leaked to the press that alcohol was to be available only through drug stores on the prescription of a physician". Who wouldn't want to get in on what smelled like "the gravy train"?

What with additions and attrition the Edmonton Telephone Directory of 1915 listed 31 drug stores. By 1916 the number had reached 32. By 1917 the number had shrunk to 26. There was one more closure in 1918. 1919 was the first full year following four years of World War I, "the war to end all wars". Despite the sadness, the loss and the grief, everybody looked forward to the brave new world including the personnel of 27 Edmonton pharmacies.

### **Pharmacy in Edmonton 1920-1940: the years between World War I and World War II**

At the commencement of the 1920's Edmonton boasted 34 drug stores. By 1939, 54 stores were listed in the Edmonton Telephone Directory. Of those 54, only 16 had continued in operation since 1920.

Drug departments in Department Stores began with Hudson's Bay Department Store in 1926, C. Woodward Ltd., in 1927 and the T. Eaton Co. Ltd. in 1929.

In the two decades following the end of World War I growth was relatively slow in the drug industry. The Roaring Twenties came in with much hope and there was some progress for a few years, but that was shattered by the Stock Market crash in 1929, and the start of the Great Depression.

During the 1920's, prohibition was a fact of life and because of this some





George Cuthill and his pharmacy.



pharmacists became involved when alcohol (brandy for example) was sold on prescription only from a physician. This undoubtedly helped the profit picture of a business. On the other hand some pharmacists were of the "temperance" persuasion and would have nothing to do with the sale of alcohol. Prohibition and drug store sales of alcohol vanished from the scene in 1927.

Prescriptions were mainly compounded in these times before the coming of the so-called wonder drugs. Capsules as well as cachets and powders were being made. Perhaps that is where the expression "Go take a powder" originated. Many ointments and liquid mixtures were also compounded. A number of items such as glycerine and rosewater, spirits of nitre and others were purchased in winchesters, rebottled in small bottles and sold at something like 1/2 oz. for 15¢, 1 oz. for 25¢, 4 oz. for 75¢ etc.. This in some instances was done also with perfumes, in smaller quantities of course. Some pharmacists also prepared their own rouges and cosmetic creams.

Other items that were in drug stores included mustard plaster, sulfur and molasses, Buckley's, Pinex, Beef Iron and Wine tonic, and many other patent medicines. Slippery Elm bark and ergot preparations were being used for abortions. Herbs and spices which had earlier been advertised and sold were gradually disappearing. Western Pharmacy stocked leeches.

Many, if not most, drug stores sold stationery, school supplies, including text books. In fact one business in Red Deer was named Gaetz Cornett Drug and Book Company. Some stores sold sheet music and others specialized also as Opticians and sold glasses as an added service to customers. Drug

stores also sold cameras and films and in some, films brought in were developed and prints made on their own premises. Photofinishing supplies, such as paper and various solutions for home developing and printing were also sold.

The Great Depression of the 1930's affected business and consumers alike with very few escaping the hard times. Consequently there was very slow growth in pharmacy and other endeavours. An exception to this could be that in 1932 the first local chain of drug stores, Merrick Drug Stores Ltd., (6 stores) was listed in the Edmonton Telephone Directory.

Soda Fountains and lunch counters were yet another service provided in some stores. A number of these were still in operation in the 1940's and 1950's. As the years passed they became less profitable and were eliminated and the space put to better use.

The Sun Drug at 109 Street and Jasper Avenue was virtually a landmark. It was across from the C.P.R. Railroad passenger station and in its early days was sort of the west end "jumping off place".

In its years under the Millwards and later Eddie Richards' it had catered to a distinguished clientele and had employed distinguished professionals and "characters" in the associated confectionery store.

It was a natural, then, for pharmacists to support as the pharmacy representing the period on the 1920 Street at Fort Edmonton Park. Exhaustive studies were made of Sun Drug in the years of 1920-1930. Pharmacists undertook to underwrite the expenses to "rebuild the Sun Drug" on 1920 Street. This has been done. The Sun Drug is in place. If you would like to see a drug store as it was in 1920 you are cordially invited to visit the Sun Drug at Fort Edmonton Park.

It is difficult to move back in time 70 years except through the medium of T.V. or by the fractured memory of a centenarian. For you, gentle reader, there is was and there it is. You don't ever have to stretch your imagination! Horehound anyone?

## **The War Years 1941-1945**

In 1941 Graham's Drug Store, 9636-111 Avenue was purchased by Merrick's. The Merrick store at 10006 Jasper Avenue was phased out. Darby's Pharmacy at 8602-99 Street closed. Anderson Drugs at 10167-101 Street opened. Fleming's Drug at 10310-101 Street closed. McKechnie Drugs, 14802 Stony Plain Road opened; the most westerly location in Edmonton at the time.

In 1944 Agnew's Drug Store closed its doors. Jack Agnew became manager at the Corner Drug Store in the Highland (formerly Highland's Drug Store).



Andy Stanley presents Life Memberships to: George Cuthill, J. W. Morris, Ernie Sexsmith.

Corner Drug took over Steen's store. Walter Sprague purchased Morris' Drug Store "across from the downtown post office" and it became Sprague Drug. Jas Wilson Morris had operated on Whyte Avenue and later downtown for nearly fifty years. Another pioneer pharmacist, H. E. Thomson, ceased operations. In 1945 Anderson Drug on 101 Street ceased operations. For the first time Chornell's Drug Store 9832 Jasper Avenue made the telephone list. Griswold's Drug Store came on the scene at 8602-99 Street, an address that had previously listed Darby's Drug Store. For the first time the pages listed Holeyton Drug Store at 12839 Fort Road. For the first time the Merrick chain listed a store at 9627-105 A Avenue. Actually, it never was a retail pharmacy but a warehouse to service the several other stores in the chain. That address was the address of the Pavey Candy Co. which many senior citizens will remember. The wholesale occupied an upstairs area.

The War Years were stressful. The losses among Canada's troops were tremendous. The shortages of pharmacists placed a great strain on manpower and many pharmacists worked long hours past the age when they would normally have been expected to slow down.

The War Years, however, provided the impetus for the encouragement of females to enter the profession. More detail on this factor will be found in the chapter "Women in Pharmacy".

The year of 1945 saw rejoicing around the world. Canadian Troops came home; many had not seen "home" for five or more years.

Despite the hard slugging and the shortage of such essentials as nylon



Golf in 1943.

l to r: Dick Holeton, Edmonton; Jack Pearson, Bashaw; Walter Sprague, Edmonton; Harold Henker, Calgary; Jim Morris, Edmonton.

stockings, Albertans proved again that they were a hardy lot. Edmonton started the war years with about fifty pharmacies and despite the start up and failures, it ended the War with about the same number.

### Pharmacy in Edmonton 1946-1960

Following World War II there were many veterans entering pharmacy. The Department of Veteran's Affairs paid the tuition fee to the University and also gave a living allowance of \$80 per month to a married student and \$60 per month to a single student. D.V.A. also subsidized apprenticeship pay which was for a period of two years. Apprentices who had registered with Alberta Pharmaceutical Association prior to joining the services could receive a diploma after completing 2 years of University if they so desired – otherwise it took 3 years and a B.Sc. in Pharmacy was granted. In 1946 there were only four ladies out of a class of 50 who registered in pharmacy – the number of women increased tremendously as the years went by.

A great number of drug stores opened for business in this post-war period. In 1948 the partnership of Wilf Etherington and George Johnson purchased C. C. McKechnie's store at 148 Street and Stony Plain Road and opened a second

store at 152 Street and Stony Plain Road, this was the first store in Jasper Place. They operated as Grosvenor Drugs. Earl Taylor was a pharmacist at Grosvenor Drug, Orval Roer was the first apprentice and Ron Mac Lean worked there while attending University. The partnership was dissolved in 1950. Etherington kept the 152 Street store and Johnson kept the 148 Street store which he sold to Corner Drug in 1953. Sadly it was that Wilf Etherington was killed by a bear near Lake Louise in 1972. He had sold his store to Cunningham Drug in 1968 and pursued a second career, returning to University and subsequently was employed by the Federal Government in the Wildlife Branch.

There were many more stores that opened on the Northside of the river in this 1946 to 1960 period.

Terry McLaughlin in Bellevue; Dave Kushner in Inglewood; Myros Samycia purchased George Chornell's store at 101 Street and 106 Avenue and subsequently moved to 101 Street and 107 Avenue; Phil Bernstein in Sherbrooke; John Taciuk at 108 Avenue and 124 Street; Doug Brown in Calder; Scotty Logan purchased Mr. Empey's store in Parkdale, Bob Merrell in downtown; Cliff Carmichael opened 3 or 4 stores, including one in Forest Heights; Lane McAthey purchased Roger's store at 124 Street and 110 Avenue and moved to 111 Avenue; Sereda Drugs on Jasper Avenue and Whyte Avenue; Gordon Robinson opened Westglen Pharmacy; Ted Hart in Inglewood; Howard Crosman on 107 Avenue and 113 Street; Steve Parada opened Service Drug at 66 Street and 118 Avenue; Laurie Winters near N.A.I.T.; Yate's Drug in West Glenora; Jack Shillabeer in the MacDonald Hotel; Harry Nolan on 118 Avenue at 90 Street, Jim Wylie and Sam Hardin opened Suburban Drugs at 149 Street and Stony Plain Road; Stan Miller at 156 Street and Stony Plain Road; Vic's Drug in Crestwood; Larry Hodgin's in Woodcroft; Baydala Drug in Beverly; Pay and Save downtown; Stan Smordin at 115 Street and 112 Avenue; Bill and Eileen Storchuk opened in Killarney; Kingsway Drugs; Med Sirois at 112 Street and 109 Avenue; Bill Lesick purchased Beverly pharmacy from Ab Dawson, the first store in Beverly.

There were also a great number of stores opened in South Edmonton in the 1946 to 1960 period.

Larry Northey opened in Bonnie Doon; Havey Housman in Ritchie; Walter Chorney in Parkallen; Irving Gould in Allendale; Bob Rogers in McKernan; Len Wheeler in Forest Heights; Lloyd McBride at 99 Street and Whyte Avenue; Ted Hart in Strathearn; Colin Layton opened Varsity Drug near the University; Keith Elliott opened in McKernan which was sold to Harold Moore and then to Maurice Galarneau; Alf Armstrong opened in King Edward Park; George Johnson opened at 91 Street and Whyte Avenue; Dale Christianson in Hazeldean; Tony's Drug opened at 99 Street and 89 Avenue; Walter Maday



Orest Verchomin, Ron Jewett,  
Ray Kuharski

opened Omega Drugs at 101 Avenue and 73 Street; Tony and Ernie's at 104 Street and Whyte Avenue; Jack Whyte opened a store in Avonmore; Byron Hardin purchased Bonnie Doon Drug; Ron Jewitt opened Leonard Drugs.

There were only two outlets that were strictly dispensaries in the late 1940's. One was in the Tegler Building and the other in the McLeod Building. In the 1950's more dispensaries were opened in or near Medical Buildings or Medical Clinics – LeMarchand Dispensary, Baker Building Dispensary, Links Clinic Dispensary, Medical Dental Building Dispensary. This was a period of relatively stable growth for retail pharmacy; practically all the stores were independently owned and operated – there were four locally owned chain store operations namely Merrick Drug Stores, Corner Drug Stores, Sprague Drug Stores, and Dispensaries Ltd. Harry Hardin also opened a few stores. The two Liggett Owl Stores in downtown Edmonton had ownership from outside Alberta. These two stores were sold to Tamblyn. Pay and Save Drugs also closed down. The first major ownership from outside Alberta came in 1953 when Tamblyn Drugs purchased the Merrick Chain.

The Liggett Drug Store at 101 St and 102 Ave. was unique in many ways as Walter Boddy recalls: The land on which it situated was obtained by an unusual shifting of lots when Eaton's built. The King Edward Hotel acquired an odd 50 foot lot and in 1940 Liggett's occupied part of a one story building erected on it. Liggetts used the plans of one of their Los Angeles stores. This resulted in beautiful air conditioning but a very poor heating system. The pharmacy had fluorescent ceiling lights which were the first to be installed in Edmonton.

Charlie Cummer was the first manager of this store. This energetic man won many sales competitions within the Liggett organizations and was often cited by the company. Some other early managers include Orme Phillipson, Jack

Shillabeer and Walt Boddy. This site circa 1940-1950 was one of the best in Edmonton for a pharmacy being across the street from the Tegler medical building even though the prescription work had to be shared with neighbors such as Woodward's, Eatons and a dispensary in the Tegler building.

The beginning of large shopping centres came in 1956 in Westmount and in 1958 in Bonnie Doon with Tambllyn Drug opening in both locations. This was undoubtedly the beginning of a great change in retail business and the effects and implications for all smaller businesses was soon to be realized.

The pinch on many stores, particularly those in close proximity to the larger shopping centres was quite noticeable. This was also the start of a shifting of business from the downtown to the suburban malls. The rate of inflation was moderate in this period so prices and wages increased slowly.

In the late 1940's pharmacists received \$35 to \$50 a week.

The post World War II period saw a big decrease in compounding of prescriptions for ointments, lotions, powders and cough syrups. The doctors were writing more prescriptions for preparations. Some compounding did continue and still does to a lesser extent. Antibiotics such as penicillin, aureomycin and chloromycetin arrived on the scene, there was some compounding including these products in the recipe. The birth control pill also became available, e.g. Enovid. Thalidomide was also available for a short period and subsequently withdrawn from the market due to the disastrous birth abnormalities that occurred. Metrecal came into the picture as a mode for dieting.

The drug stores started to carry a greater variety of merchandise, particularly many more sundry items, school opening was widely promoted and was a big boost in sales for September. Some stores specialized in photographic equipment, several stores provided a postal service to increase traffic and a few still had a soda fountain and lunch counter.

The Edmonton and District Drug Association was formed in this period. It was very active and well supported by the druggists, it met monthly, very often at the King Edward Hotel as a supper meeting.

The affairs of the day were discussed and sometimes quite a lively exchange occurred. Several city pharmacists served as President but reliable and congenial Mr. Sexsmith was Secretary for many years. The relationship between pharmacists was generally quite congenial and hospitable. The E.D.D.A. played a very active role in the pharmaceutical conventions when they came to Edmonton, particularly the highly successful Dominion Convention of 1958 with Walter Sprague as Chairman.

The Druggists met several times during the winter to curl. Weekly draws and bonspiels were enthusiastically attended. There were also several golf

tournaments held in this period. One of the main golf tournaments was the Wampole Cup. It always drew a large contingent of golfers and many prizes were awarded. To win the Wampole Cup a large handicap sure didn't hurt.

The 1946 to 1960 era was certainly a period in which a great many independently owned drug stores came on stream. It proved to be a great period for an enterprising pharmacist to open a business and succeed as many good locations became available.

The years following 1960 to the present show the strengthening of Edmonton and the favourable climate for more and more and more drug stores and drug-store departments.

An indication in the growth is provided by the fact that in 1960 there were 134 outlets. This receded slightly in the 1970's to show a number of 130. By 1981 there were 158 drug stores and the year of 1992 claims the number as 203.

These numbers were attained despite some closures. For example, in 1964, 13 stores opened but 10 others ceased operations.

Of historical interest is the noticeable growth of dispensaries in Medical Clinics and Medical Buildings. These pharmacies were planned to concentrate on prescription volume and closely related companion sales. Thus, to survive a dispensary without much front store inventory had to have a disproportionate number of prescriptions. The space was small in comparison, so the rent was low in comparison to traditional drug stores. Conversely, the salary percentage was high as there was frequently only prescription and related sales to sustain the salaries, two or three professional people and perhaps one or one and a half non-professional staff.

Over the past thirty years there have been many "guesses" as to the mix of drug outlets by the year 2000, a preponderance of guesses had predicted that there will be, in the main, two types of pharmacies operating, viz: the super store, 5000-10,000 square feet and the prescription only (or almost only) store of up to 1000 square feet. This combination has, therefore, affected the drug store of the 1940's and 1950's (2,000-3,000 sq. ft.) and left them unable to compete. The story may well be different in the rural areas but Edmonton's history is the one under the microscope.

The fierce competition has caused the Hudson Bay Company and T. Eaton Company to close their dispensaries. Of the three department store giants, only Woodward's pharmacy remains.

Edmonton has seen the development of its own brand of "chain store". The first to enter the field was Harold Merrick, The Merrick chain of six or seven outlets operated for some twenty years.

Sloane's Drug Stores were an early chain but with a twist. The stores were spread from Edmonton to Grande Prairie to Bonnyville and St. Paul.





Two vaudevillians "ham" it up as they belt out a chorus of "Frankie and Johnnie". Management evidently thought that "Cameron and Huston" were worth only five cents.

The Corner Drug chain was a local chain which enjoyed more than modest success. Stores owned by Darling Drug at 101 Street and 102 Street both on Jasper Avenue became available. Fred Beddome and Sandy Sanders who operated those two stores formed a partnership and bought both businesses. They closed the 101 Street store and shortly thereafter acquired the drug store at 102 Avenue and 124 Street. Although he was not the first manager, Wilf Carrington managed the 124 Street store for years. Upon his decision to leave for a buy out opportunity, Sanders and Beddome put all their stores up for sale to the manager. By this time the chain had expanded remarkably. Jack Agnew managed the Highlands Corner Drug for many years. Mr. Shore and later Colin Layton managed the Corner Drug, previously Steen's High Level Drug. Eddie O'Farrell managed the store on 118 Avenue. Bill Ferguson was retained to manage the 102 Street store. Sanders and Beddome co-managed the Corner Drug in the Allin Clinic. A wholesale was located just south of the Allin Clinic to service the several stores. Corner Drug acquired the store at 148 Street and Stony Plain Road. It was sold to Bill

Christopherson and Garth Scott who, for a time, operated two or three stores known as Donn-Rae Drugs, so named after their wives, Donna Scott and Rae Christopherson. The Scott children, Ken and his sister, were pharmacists as was Donna. Corner Drugs at one time had a store through the subway on 127 Street north. A Corner store was started in Gold Bar and when the opportunity came, was purchased by Joe Balko, its manager.

For a period Vic Harrison had a chain of drug stores and he also operated a wholesale.

Walter Baydala operates a chain of drug stores. Two of these are located in Spruce Grove. He operates a wholesale outlet. At one time in this period of history a store was located in Swan Hills.

But the most outstanding, long lasting of the stores of local entrepreneurs concerns Walter H. Sprague.

Walter Sprague was first introduced to pharmacy when the Sprague family lived next door to a Mr. Argue in the City of Saskatoon. This gentleman introduced Walter to the world of pharmacy while he was still a teenager. The terrible 'flu epidemic of the late teens was in progress and Walter helped to prepare protective masks through which people breathed the air and a mixture of eucalyptus and asafetida. You may well ask yourself whether this was not worse than the 'flu. A toss up? It must have been partially successful. In spite of it thousands of Canadians died.

A sidelight of the stay in Saskatoon reveals that Walter's brothers had to do the household chores while Walter practised the piano! His mother had him booked for a concert pianist and Carnegie Hall! Pharmacy interfered with this career but he plays very well indeed.

The family moved to Calgary and Walter started his career with Joe Mahood. He spent some time with Percy Jeffries in Riverside. The clientele was too scary and he moved to seventh avenue during the first oil boom and then to Hillhurst. Walter graduated in 1932 and in that same year married Mary Rook whose family owned a drug store in Hillhurst. The Spragues moved to Edmonton in 1934 and Walter purchased from Ralph Fraser, the Physicians Prescription Service located in the McLeod Building. Not long after he acquired the "first lady of pharmacy" in Edmonton, Mary Cuthill. Mary had a lengthy and illustrious stay at the McLeod Building and later worked for Mr. Sprague in the Medical Arts Pharmacy from which position she retired.

Mr. Sprague purchased Morris Drug and inherited two great pharmacists, Sterling Gilbert and Morris Hawkey.

The surge towards bigger and better was underway. A store was opened on 109 Street, south of Whyte Avenue; followed by openings in Windsor Park on



Combined staff of Sprague Drug No. 1 (former James W. Morris Drug Store) and McLeod Building Dispensary. Pharmacists (l to r): Walter Sprague, Morris Hawkey, Lucien Fetaz, Sterling Gilbert, and at extreme right, Mary Cuthill.

Stony Plain Road and several others, some of which still operate and others have closed.

The Sprague chain expanded into Calgary and most of the new openings were in high rise office buildings in both Edmonton and Calgary. Walter has now divorced himself from active participation in pharmacy. Son Donald, and grandson Robert, are presently chief and little chief in the Sprague empire. Sprague Drug operates five pharmacies in Edmonton.

At one point in history American interests operated a Pay-n-Save Drug Store in Edmonton. The location near the market underwent great change and they left Edmonton expressing the belief that they would return. They have not, to this point, done so. Perhaps their "far out merchandising" (everything from fish hooks to automobile tires) was too flamboyant for the Canadian psyche.

The Tamblyn organization came to Alberta from a Toronto base and a record of success in many Ontario locations. They acquired the Merrick chain and bought the Liggett Rexall Drug businesses at 101 Street and Jasper Avenue and 101 Street and 102 Avenue. They, likewise opened stores in Calgary, Red Deer and other Alberta cities. After a number of years they sold all of their interests to Boots Drugs, a name almost synonymous with the retail drug trade in England.

For reasons not immediately available, Boots Drugs decided to close down the entire North American distribution system. Some of the Edmonton stores

were sold to local entrepreneurs and others to White Cross Drugs, a Regina based organization. That organization had a relatively short lived experience.

The chain known as Dispensaries Ltd. has had a lengthy "run".

The Tegler Building had a pharmacy for many years operating under a succession of names. When acquired by Cliff Lee it established the name, "Dispensaries Ltd" under which name the chain still operates.

Cliff Lee hired Andy Stanley, a 1947 U of A graduate. As the medical community became more and more dispersed Dispensaries tried to diversify by manufacturing specialized products. One of these was a product called 7.6 a dental anaesthetic distributed locally and then marketed as far away as Montreal.

New openings were acquired such as the Baker Clinic, Le Marchand Mansions and the Weinlos Clinic. Mr. Lee became heavily involved in the development of Nu-West Homes and more and more management devolved upon Stanley. At one point Mr. Lee promised that if he decided to divest of his interest in the drug stores Mr. Stanley would be offered the buy opportunity. The day came and Mr. Stanley asked that Jim Thorsley and Bill Leisen should be included as junior partners. It was agreed. The expansion continued so that today Dispensaries operates six dispensaries and a wholesale in Edmonton plus one in Sherwood Park.

In addition to a number of outstanding professional managers two delivery boys have done well. Norm Weiss is an MLA and Randy is Mr. Toyota in Edmonton.

In the latter years of the 20th century there has been an introduction of pharmacy department into the outlets of the giant food chains. This has contributed to the total number of pharmacies in 1992 as being 203. Is this justified? The food chains would say that it is an attempt to provide the shopper with "one stop shopping service". It does seem to provide a precursor for three types of pharmacies; viz: food chain departments, super pharmacies and small pharmacies that rely on prescription volume provided by locally based physicians.

The market place is volatile. The total demand on the dollar is eaten more and more by the health component. The costs of health and education is escalating so that the prediction that "we will be the healthiest, best educated generation that ever starved to death" may not be that far off the mark.

The largest chain in Edmonton, and that could be extended to Alberta, is the chain known as Shopper's Drug Mart(s). It originated in Toronto and now occupies a dominant place in all of Canada and has some stores in the United States. Shoppers is a franchise organization. They have opened many new stores, especially in shopping malls. They have also purchased some stores



Andy Stanley, front, in his  
Professional Pharmacy

and retained the previous owner as manager. They carry a large inventory and are aggressive in merchandising and advertising.

This chapter has attempted to inform you, generally, of when stores came onto the scene, how long they lasted, and other trivia. It is nearly bereft of human interest stories of which there must have been a multitude. It is not possible to relate all of them. At the risk of omitting many that probably need to be told, here are a few selected at random.

Archibald's Drug Store was one of the earliest in Edmonton. It specialized in animal health products and belts and trusses. It was a large drug store by standards of those days and had the facility to display adequately both departments. It had perhaps the first large refrigerator to house serums and bacterins. It had a well stocked department for feeds, tonics, draughts, implements for animal health care and a well trained staff. Mary Ellen Medford (nee Burn) and pharmacists James Toller and Alan McCullough ran that big store for years with no other help than delivery boy Douglas Rhad Brown. In the 1930's Mary Ellen and Jim Toller went to Edmonton's major hospitals to measure patients for belts, trusses and related surgical appliances. You thought that such activity was a modern touch? Not so.

Armstrong's Drug and Stationery was started in 1901 at Namayo Avenue and Boyle Street (97 Street and 103A Avenue). George S. Armstrong was the owner. George was an active citizen. In 1911 (by acclamation) he was elected Mayor of Edmonton. In 1912 he was re-elected. He became postmaster for Edmonton for the years 1913-1928. Milton J. "Jake" Warner joined the staff in 1909, purchased an interest in the store and became its manager. "Jake" Warner was to have a tremendous influence on his community, his profession,

the Alberta and Canadian Pharmaceutical Associations, and humanity. One pharmacist who came under his influence has made his mark. He is Walter Maday. How many people can you point to today, and say, "There stands a man/woman of extraordinary talent and worth and goodness and is loved by every human he/she has touched". Armstrong's Drug operates today at 10331-97 Street. It is owned and managed by "Tini" Andrews.

Russell Milton Steele was a Westlock boy who came under the influence of a venerable British chemist, Lennox Tice. He encouraged Russell to enroll in pharmacy at the University of Alberta which he did and from which he graduated. The story goes that Russ Steele was the best salesman who ever stood behind the counter in a retail drug store. A tale is told that in the midst of the depression years Wilkinson razor introduced the "Wilkinson Strop Razor". It came in a metal container about the size of a prayer book and when the lid was removed you "stropped" the razor, which was attached, and the blade flip-flopped as you drew the razor forward and backward. The price was some astronomical figure like \$6.95. A contest was held to see who, among the staff, could sell the most razors. Russ Steele sold twenty-four between 6 p.m. and store closing on Christmas Eve!

Russ became a manager for the Sloane chain and managed the store at 95 Street and Norwood Blvd. in 1937. His Christmas bonus was \$942.00. He took the \$942.00 and opened Steele's Drug Store at 114 Avenue and 95 Street. Random guesses place the cost of opening a 4000-6000 square foot store in 1992, including fixturing and inventory at "about \$400,000". Russ Steele opened Steele's Drug Store for \$942.00. Nobody told him there was a depression!

The Sereda Pharmacists. The first Ukrainian pharmacist to have a pharmacy in Edmonton was William Sereda. He helped his brothers to apprentice and to progress through pharmacy classes at U. of A.. Bill himself apprenticed at La Parisian Drug on Jasper Ave. in 1931. As an undergraduate he was a laboratory assistant and manufactured bulk ointments for the University Hospital. He graduated in 1934 and opened Western Pharmacy at 10310-101 St. that same year.

Stephen Sereda apprenticed at LaParisian and Western Pharmacy then graduated in 1936. He established his own pharmacy at Radway Alberta but later sold it and returned to work with William.

Samuel Sereda also apprenticed at Western Pharmacy, worked as laboratory assistant at the Faculty, graduated in 1940 with a B.Sc. Sam then undertook graduate studies in biochemistry and obtained his M.Sc. in 1943. He was employed at the Horner Co. in Montreal and later returned to Edmonton in Sereda Drugs at 10063 101 Ave.

Joseph Sereda apprenticed at Western Pharmacy, graduated with B.Sc. in pharmacy in 1944. Joe opened his own pharmacy at 10332-82 Ave. Joe's wife Mary was also a pharmacist. After several years, Joe sold the business and practised as a relief pharmacist.

Western Pharmacy was sold to Peter Miskew.

Sereda Drugs was set up at 10063 Jasper Ave. with Bill and Sam and Steve. The Seredas developed "Surzana" ointment which they actively promoted for many years. Sereda Drugs was sold to Barabash (Bara Drugs) in 1984.

William Sereda took an active role in the 1959-60 committee on prescription pricing and helped develop the Pricing Schedule and Fees for the Edmonton and District Druggists Assn. As well he helped with revisions and updating of the A.Ph.A. Pharmaceutical Act as passed in 1966.

George Chornell opened a drug store on Jasper Avenue East during World War II. Being a personable and ambitious young fellow he was successful almost from the start. Never one to hide his light under bushel, George entered a contest to construct the best display window in Canada for Bauer and Black's Curad. He won the contest and received a new Studebaker Sport Model. Who says energy and ambition doesn't pay?

Myros Samycia graduated in pharmacy in 1951 and look what he started!

His daughter, Linda Raisbeck, graduated in 1979. Her pharmacist husband Jamie Raisbeck in 1970. Myro's son Dwayne graduated in 1979, his wife Donna in 1975. A second daughter, Caroline Samycia, graduated in 1983. Myro's brother Myron Samycia graduated in 1958. That makes a total of seven pharmacists in this well known family.

Borys Ferbey, an Alberta graduate, was employed with the Hudson Bay Company. He was transferred to Winnipeg where misfortune overtook the family in the form of a serious illness to his infant daughter. Distraught, the family returned to Edmonton where Borys ran the Park Drug before locating at Union Drug, upon the untimely death of his brother-in-law Nick Ewasiuk. Changes in the downtown core required a move and Borys became the owner of Market Drug. He purchased the Archibald Drug and hired Alan McCullough. The Archibald Drug had a long and distinguished record in the surgical appliance specialty and this aspect of the business was pursued with vigour. Today Market Drug is a giant in this field. It employs about half of the staff of Market Drug which together with a large prescription volume and a wide reputation for beer and wine making supplies, marks it as well known, versatile and successful.

There was once a TV program called "The Naked City". As its close, the by-line would say, "There are a million stories in the Naked City; this has been one of them". May it be said that there are a million stories in the 110 year history

of pharmacy in Edmonton. These have been a few of them.

To return to the beginning, this poem appeared in a George H. Graydon advertisement. Was he the author? He may well have been.

### **The Druggist**

*G. H. Graydon*

Who rises at the break of light  
And plies his trade till late at night  
And hardly stops to take a bite?

The Druggist

Who meets his patrons with a smile  
And talks in tones as smooth as "ile"  
And meets with every sort and style

The Druggist

Who daubs his hands in making pills  
For cure of various human ills  
From colic up to ague's chills?

The Druggist

Who gets prescriptions that are lax,  
With writing much like turkey tracks  
To make them out his brain doth tax?

The Druggist

Who tries to please his patrons all  
And gets the name of being small  
And having lost of "cheek" and "gall"?

The Druggist

Who, when he ceases here to toil  
And shuffles off this mortal coil,  
Should rest in peace beneath the soil?

The Druggist

*March 4, 1895*





Northern and Southern Pharmacists Meet at Jasper.

back (l to r) Ray Kucharski, Bob Dowling, Maurice Galarneau, Neville Parry, Bob Edgar, Bob Home, Ron MacLean, Don Cameron, Al Moreau, Jim Davey, Charlie Pollock  
front (l to r) Joan Kucharski, Olga Dowling, Madonna Galarneau, Mabel Davey, Sheila Home, Grace Pollock (circa 1963)

## Pharmacists and Pharmacies of Northern Alberta

by Donald M. Cameron and J. K. Penley

THE EARLY ENTRIES in the original membership ledger of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association show the members claiming North West Territories (N.W.T.) credentials. The reader will recall that the first Pharmacy Act of the N.W.T. was promulgated in 1892. Moreover, the entry often lists the home town of the member as Saskatoon or Toronto or other, rather than the place in Alberta where he proposed to practise. Thus it is difficult to pinpoint the date of the first arrival in such a place as Stony Plain or Edson or Peace River.

The main line from Lloydminster to Jasper is fairly easy to trace but beginnings elsewhere are not too easy. Lloydminster was originally in Saskatchewan and not until fairly recently has there been such an address as Lloydminster, Alberta.

The Peace River region is a comparative "newcomer" to the scene. It is to be remembered that, prior to 1892, anyone who claimed to be a druggist was accepted as being one. Many "drug store" signs were on display over businesses which were never drug stores to begin with. It is not impossible in 1992 to see a sign advertising "drugs" in a premises which never was nor, quite likely, ever will be a drug store.

Again we have chosen to list the towns and villages alphabetically; chronologically it is impossible. The communities described in this chapter are located on or north of highway 16.

**Andrew.** A Dr. Connolly registered with the A.Ph.A. in 1916 then came to Andrew after being in Mundare. Harry Bentley Olsen, A.Ph.A. 1939, had a pharmacy here and trained an apprentice, William Lesick, who did rather well in his later life. The Olsen store was closed when no physician located there and he then relieved in several Edmonton drug stores into the 1970's. Three other members of the A.Ph.A. who called Andrew home were Eli Ambrosie, George Chornell and Joe Stepa.

**Ashmont.** Near St. Paul, Ashmont listed a "drug store" owned by J. R. Corbett, whose name does not appear in an Alberta register.

**Athabasca.** Harvey Cull is thought to have been the first pharmacist to settle in what was then called Athabasca Landing. It is calculated that he opened the Athabasca Pharmacy there in 1911. He was a druggist and optician: he died in 1936 after retiring from business.

Fred Mills bought the pharmacy from Cull in 1936 and operated it until retiring in 1955.

Glen Osmont bought the pharmacy in 1953 and ran it until 1984 when he sold it to Bob Mackenzie. A new store was built and has since been sold to Gerry Borowicz who now operates Pharmasave 315 with Margaret Armfelt on staff.

Gerry F. Bullock was registered here in 1927 and may have worked for Cull. He later became president of the Rexall Drug Co. of Canada.

A second drug store was opened in 1938 and closed in the early 1940's. W. B. Cameron was the owner operator. Mr. Cameron was not long in Athabasca but deserves special mention as the lone survivor of the Frog Lake massacre of April 2, 1885. He was saved by an Indian chief. Cameron had written books depicting the early Canadian West such as "When Fur Was King", "War Trail of Big Bear" and the "Law Marches West".

Another drug store opened and was owned by Dr. E. K. Wright. Art Peterson managed the store from 1949 to 1951. R. Y. "Bert" McDonald, a 1948 graduate, managed then bought the business. Lorne H. Baldwin, a 1963 graduate, worked for McDonald then he bought the store in 1970. Dale Onrait was the next owner in 1984. It is now known as McDonald's Value Drug Mart. Louise Zachoda and Mirelle Pauletic are on staff.

Cindy L. Jones is pharmacist at the Athabasca General hospital.

**Barrhead.** Norman Scott opened a drug store here in 1927. Among the many apprentices who trained under him were Ewart Hodgins, Bill McCalla, Charles Fyfe, Morris Hawkey, Mary Donald, Bud Klumph, and Wendy Hobbs (Barton). Norman Scott was a veteran of W.W.I, a president of the A.Ph.A. and was responsible, in 1940, for forming the committee on the Status of Pharmacists in the Armed Forces.

The store was eventually sold to Earl Lane who operated it along with his pharmacist friend Laurie Winter. Upon Earl's death, the store was sold to Mike Field of the Medicine Bottle chain. It is now managed by Richard Ward.

Charles Fyfe opened a second store and took in partner Luke Grant. The store still operates as Fyfe's Friendly Pharmacy. Colin Grant, Luke's son, a non-pharmacist, manages it along with pharmacist wife Lorraine and assistants

**Shane Rathwell and Barbara Kenyon.**

The Co-op has a drug department in its complex.

Darlene Rowe and Deborah Ward are pharmacists at the hospital.

**Beaverlodge.** H. W. Rogers established a drug store here in the 1920's. It was managed by Sydney L. Eversfield who left in 1929. He was replaced by John Ray Johnson formerly of Lougheed and Sedgewick. The store was sold to Harold Jarvis who operated it for several years before selling it to Wayne Howe. Wayne now lives in B.C. and the store is managed by Barbara G. Dixon who also is manager of the Beaverlodge Hospital pharmacy.

**Bellis.** Clarence G. Torrance, an A.Ph.A. registrant of 1922, had a drug store in Bellis in 1923.

**Berwyn.** According to a business directory, David Dale had a drug store in Berwyn in 1924; D. F. T. Torrie is listed in 1930 and A. Carter in the 1950's. This store was closed and for years Berwyn had no pharmacy. There was a bitter battle to see whether a new hospital would be built in Berwyn or Grimshaw. To enhance Berwyn's chances, the community built a new clinic and drug store combination. Diane Drewlo was to operate the pharmacy and two physicians were to locate in Berwyn. Alas! for Berwyn, the decision was made to build the hospital in Grimshaw. David J. Becher operates a successful pharmacy here but no physicians are located in Berwyn now.

**Bon Accord.** Had a drug store for a short time, but none at present.

**Bonnyville.** Dr. Sabourin, here since 1918, opened the first drug store in 1929 or 1930. In 1933 Sid Ross purchased this store. In 1941 the business was sold to Mr. Sloane who owned drug stores in Edmonton and Grande Prairie. Ossie Ferbey managed this store for Mr. Sloane. Upon Sloane's death, the store was sold to Mr. Ferby who built a new store on main street in 1961. Since then several new stores have opened. Gerry Tellier operates Value Drug Mart, Jane Tellier manages Clinic Pharmacy and Peter Davey owns and operates Davey Drug Mart assisted by Alain Denault. Darryl W. Davison manages the Bonnyville Drug Store. Leslie Ripka is pharmacist at the Bonnyville Health Centre.

**Boyle.** Lennox Tice, who later located at Westlock, had a drug store in Boyle but the year is not known. For many years there was no drug store here until one was started by Don Goyan. Goyan sold to Dale Onrait in 1978. Onrait then sold to pharmacists Robert and Mary Kwong in 1984. Robert was joined by his brother Randy (a non-pharmacist) and his wife Bonnie in a new large phar-

macy one street removed from the original. Robert and Mary also dispense at the Boyle General Hospital.

**Bruderheim.** R. C. Lane of "Lane and Bruser Drugs" was here in the early teens when Lane enlisted. Neither man appeared on the A.Ph.A. register. Raymond W. Stewart left Liggett's Drug in Edmonton to operate a pharmacy here circa 1928-29. There has been no drug store located here for many years.

**Cadomin.** Al B. Kluck, a 1911 registrant, went to Cadomin from Edgerton. The 'coal branch' was booming in those days. Records show that Mel Cragg was in Cadomin in 1920, probably as an employee of Kluck's. Bill Goldberg had Riverview Drug Store in 1928-29. When the 'coal branch' closed as a bustling community, the towns of Luscar, Cadomin and Mountain Park became ghost towns.

**Cardiff.** A John Kuyper (not on A.Ph.A. register) was said to have a "drug store" in Cardiff from 1920 to 1924.

**Chipman.** Jacob Safana, non registrant, was listed as having a "drug store" here in 1920. Clarence Torrance did have a drug store here about 1924. The Chipman Drug Co. is listed in the 1929 directory but no proprietor can be identified.

**Clairmont.** A newspaper notice of 1961 refers to a grocery and drug store of a Mr. Curtis, however this name does not appear on the A.Ph.A. register thus was unlikely to be a proper drug store. Edward Carthew (A.Ph.A. 1915) was listed in the directory as having a drug store here 1920-22.

**Clyde.** Matthew John Rowland, (A.Ph.A. 1916) had the Clyde Drug Store here in 1920. He was mayor of the town in 1927. Walter Rowland, also a pharmacist, carried on this store until he relocated in Thorhild.

**Cold Lake.** Reginald D. O'Neill opened a drug store in Cold Lake about 1950. He also had a drug store on the Airforce base at Medley. Ken Boettcher operated a pharmacy here for about a decade. A large modern pharmacy is now located at Cold Lake, opened and operated by Barry Stevenson with pharmacist Ronald Mattice. The Cold Lake Hospital pharmacy is managed by Manon A. M. Delorme.

**Donnelly.** Dr. H. Lasnier, a registrant with A.Ph.A. in 1919, had a drug store in Donnelly in 1922. R. N. Biron is reported in the directory of 1924 but he was not on the A.Ph.A. register.



l to r: Bob Everson (PMAC),  
 Danny Switzer (Edson), Rita  
 Anderson, Mrs. Switzer, Andy  
 Anderson (Lethbridge), 1981.

**Edson.** The name Switzer is synonymous with pharmacy in Edson. Harvey Alexander Switzer, an A.Ph.A. life member, located here in 1912. What is known is that H. A. Switzer walked and drove oxen on the Edson-Grande Prairie Trail. If you travel the Yellowhead Highway, you can see the sign where the trail north began. Mr. Switzer and others proceeded northwards until they met wood-cutters coming from the north. They reported snow in the region we now call Grande Prairie and the parties returned to Edson.

Harvey and his wife had three sons who became pharmacists, viz; William, John and Daniel. The Switzer name carries on in pharmacy as John's son Harold is now associated with the firm. John and Hazel had a daughter Connie who graduated in pharmacy but who has gone on to receive a medical degree and a specialty as an internist.

Other drug stores in Edson were Davies & Co. in 1911(not registered ) and Doctors Proctor and Curtis, both of whom were registered, may also have had a drug store here in 1911. Dr. H. A. Watson with a Mr. Shaw ran the Red Cross Pharmacy circa 1913. Other pharmacists who have practised in Edson include; Geo. A. Shirran, Chas. W. Watts, Frank M. Duguid, Mary E. Gavin and Randy Murray.

Presently in Edson, Switzer Rexall Drug is operated by John F. and Harold A. Switzer who also staff the St. John's Health Care Centre pharmacy. The Shopper' Drug Mart store is managed by Donald R. Saby and the Edson Value Drug Mart by Brian Clouston.

**Elk Point.** The first drug store in Elk point was owned by Bruce MacDonald in the late 1920's. It was destroyed by fire in 1938. It was rebuilt shortly

thereafter but Mr. MacDonald did not long survive the loss. The store was taken over by a non-pharmacist, Geo. Graham. In 1946 the store was sold to R. Joseph Tredger who owned and operated it until 1975. Since then it has been operated as Capital I.D.A. Drugs, owned by Douglas E. McPherson and is now the only pharmacy in Elk Point. William B. Cameron was registered as at Elk Point in 1932 but his role here is not known. John Martens opened a drug store here in 1980.

Roberta A. Stasyk manages the pharmacy in the Elk Point hospital.

**Entwhistle.** The record shows that William A. Marshall gave Entwhistle as his address in 1911 for the A.Ph.A. register. An A. F. Chisholm, who does not appear on the A.Ph.A. register, operated a store here in 1928-29. A Dr. R. K. B. Knowles may have had a drug store in the 1920's or 1930's or simply dispensed his own medicines according to a billing form in our Archives. There is no drug store here now.

**Evansburg.** Dr. Alexander Lorne Caldwell gave Evansburg as his address when he registered with A.Ph.A. in 1923. A "drug store" existed here 1928-29 run by an F. L. Elsie who was not registered. Leonard Corkery opened a proper drug store here in 1956. It may well have been Evansburg's first pharmacy. He sold this business to John Caron in 1968 who operates it as Evansburg Drugs Ltd. at present.

**Fairview.** Gordon Hull, who registered with A.Ph.A. in 1920, was located at Peace River but moved to open a drug store at "Waterhole". This site was abandoned and a new location known as Fairview was established. Gordon's son Jack, a 1948 graduate, joined him. Jack died in the late 1950's and his father carried on for years before he retired. The store was sold to George and Deanna Jonson. George started a second pharmacy known as Dunvegan I.D.A. Drugs. It is managed by Lorrie Sych. A third drug store came into being when Gerard Becher of Blue Sky opened Becher Pharmacy. All three are operating at present.

A branch of the Sloane Drug chain operated here, at least, in 1941.

Theresa Nicholson is pharmacist at the Fairview General Hospital.

**Falher.** In the 1920's the business directory shows that a Dr. Cote and a J. R. Hardy operated "drug stores" in Falher. Neither were registered with A.Ph.A. so they were not drug stores under Alberta legislation. A news report stated that Dr. Desrosiers of McLennan had opened an attractive new pharmacy here managed by a Mr. Dextras. The A.Ph.A. register does not bear the name Dextras either.



Hill Drug, 1922.



Hill Drugs, 1965.

Ron Schuster believes that he opened the first pharmacy in Falher in 1965. Mr. Schuster has been a president of Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. The Falher I.D.A. Pharmacy is a beautiful enlarged store and graces a new location on main street and is Falher's only drug store. Guy Houle and Barbara Gardecke assist Mr. Schuster.

**Fort Assiniboine.** This location listed a drug store for a short period in the recent past. There is no pharmacy here now.

**Fort McMurray.** Angus M. Sutherland established the first drug store in Fort McMurray in 1919. He was joined by Walter Hill, later an A.Ph.A. life member, in 1923. The frame building which had replaced a log building burned to the ground in 1934. A new building was erected on the adjacent lot. Sutherland died in 1951. In 1955, son Kenneth "Billy" Hill joined the firm and the name was changed to Hills Drugs Limited. In August 1965 a concrete block building was erected on the original site. In 1978, Ken's son David, a third generation pharmacist, joined the firm. Walter Hill died October 27 1986. An era ended October 8, 1988, when Hill Drugs was sold to Shoppers Drug Mart.

Over the years Fort McMurray had changed from a fur trading post to an oil



town with the advent of exploiting the oil sands. A frontier village had grown to be a city of 30,000 plus.

In the early 1960's, Sam Hardin started a second pharmacy. Before he retired he owned another pharmacy in the largely residential Thickwood subdivision. Sam was mayor of Fort McMurray. He sold his empire to Shoppers Drug Mart. John Shillabeer Jr. was associated with Sam Hardin.

The Rainbow Pharmacy (1984) had Terence Fernandes as its manager.

Presently Fort McMurray has six pharmacies; Morrison Centre Pharmacy with Daniel Keeler and Colleen Dunn; Plaza Value Drug Mart with Ernest Peterson, Pamela Hurlbert. Allana Scott, James Cameron; Two Shoppers Drug Marts managed by Larry Pratt and Randall Sloan; Signal Road Pharmacy with James and Valerie Wilsevich.

The hospital pharmacy is staffed by Heather Bailey, Patricia Grajczyk and Isabel Hibbs.

**Fort Saskatchewan.** Alexander M. Sutherland was here from 1911 to at least 1929 and later went to Lethbridge. The Frank Drug Co. was listed in a 1911 directory but no owner mentioned. The names Taylor and Watson were given as drug store owners. Only the name Selby J. Watson appears on the A.Ph.A. register of 1911. Dr. Peter Aylen had the Fort Saskatchewan Drug Store in the 1911-1914 era. F. W. Richardson was located at the Fort in the 1917-1918 period. Norman W. McClellan had a drug store here in 1919 prior to relocating in Edmonton. James Albert "Ab" Dawson was in business here in 1927. Brock Duncan, best known for his later Medicine Hat business, had a store here relocating from Edmonton. Frank Crawford apprenticed with Duncan.

Michael Yakimets purchased the store from Ab Dawson, and now operates Macwell Drugs. He subsequently opened Westview Pharmacy, since sold to Bobbi Hulberg, and Sheridan Pharmacy, managed by Margaret Booker. Neville Perry operated a pharmacy for several years but is now employed in the travel agency business and is pharmacist at the pharmacy of the General Hospital. More recently Shoppers Drug Mart and Safeway Ltd. have opened pharmacies.

**Fort Vermilion.** This picturesque town, forty miles downstream from High Level, had its first pharmacy opened by a Mr. Carriere, the hospital administrator. It was sold to Aaron Sanderson who placed it in charge of Martin Stanners who presently operates it as the Pioneer Drug Mart. Mr. Stanners also manages the hospital pharmacy.

**Fox Creek.** This town is a result of the oil industry, a wide spot in the road from Whitecourt to Valleyview. It has grown to become a town and boasts a Medicine Bottle Drug Mart under the management of Timothy Pratt.

**Gibbons.** There is no record of a drug store being here until 1979 when Don Vickerson and Gary West undertook to introduce a pharmacy. Gary West managed the store. It was sold to Zan Korba who now manages the Gibbons I.D.A. Drugs.

**Glendon.** The first drug store here was opened in comparatively recent years by Ted Schumaker. He sold to Brian Tercier who presently runs the Glendon Drug Mart.

**Grand Centre.** The first drug store in Grand Centre was opened by Grace Miller (now Mrs. Jim Balkwill of Trochu). Grace sold her store and it has been resold and rebuilt. Ken Boettcher opened the Grand Centre Value Drug Mart in 1980, selling to Robert Mattice in 1989. The present owner, of Grand Centre Value Drug Mart, is Robert Mattice assisted by Wanita Shandro. Ed Stremecki started a second store called the Norlite Pharmacy. It is managed by Douglas Allen assisted by Valerie Skripitsky.

**Grande Cache.** This is a comparatively new Alberta community started when Japanese industrialists contracted for millions of tons of coal. The first drug store was established by Henry Resta. It was sold to Jack Slimmon and Fournier Drugs is now owned and operated by James Fournier.

**Grand Prairie.** It had no pharmacy or pharmacists until 1914. Prior to then residents, who otherwise had quite a long trip to obtain their drug store supplies, may have used mail order services offered by many. The H. A. Switzer Drug Store in Edson used display advertisements in the Grande Prairie Herald to solicit business.

Dr. R. N. Shaw opened the Grande Prairie Drug Co. on April 15, 1914 with pharmacist S. J. Shuttleworth as manager. This is thought to have been the first pharmacy in the town and Shuttleworth the first pharmacist. Sidney James Shuttleworth was a graduate of the Ontario College of Pharmacy, the Canadian Ophthalmic College, a member of the North West Territories Pharmaceutical Association, the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association and the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. So far as inquiries can determine, the pharmaceutically famous E. B. Shuttleworth has no close relationship to the Grande Prairie person. S. J. Shuttleworth bought the drug store from Dr. Shaw January 1915 then returned to Ontario in 1918.

In February 1918, the business was sold to G. A. "Jimmy" James, an O.C.P graduate who had recently registered in Alberta. James was evidently an active citizen as within six months he was elected as a school trustee and in only eleven months topped the polls in the municipal elections of 1918. He was a

good merchandiser too, for by 1920 the James Drug Store was listed as the third highest for Canada in sales of Rexall products for towns of 1,000 population and in the following year was complimented by the Grande Prairie Herald for its attractive window displays. James, with Shaw, opened a second drug store at Sexsmith in 1920 and a third in 1921 at Pouce Coupe in B.C..

After selling his business in 1929, Mr. James retired, remained in his beloved community and remained active in town affairs. He was president of the Agricultural Society for at least two terms, president of the Curling Club. The Northern Tribune thought it newsworthy to report that Mr. James raised chickens and when a pet hen named "Little Joe" died, ran quite a story about it. While in retirement, Jimmy James, in 1933, became organizer of the Retail Druggists Association of Alberta.

The new owners were M. B. Cragg in association with Allan Sloane of the Sloane Drug chain. Mel Cragg had represented the Alberta National Drug Co. in the Peace River area for four years prior to this. At first the store was called the Grande Prairie Drug Store then in 1932 was renamed Sloane's Drug Store in new premises. By now, Ian C. Ellis was manager with Keith Elliott as assistant. At about this time the newspaper reported that this store was named the exclusive distributor of the new patent medicine "Sargon". Prior to 1936 the management was taken over by Tom Blair. Blair left in 1941. Both he and Ellis served as pharmacist dispensers in the Canadian Army.

In June 1941, the Sloane Drug was sold to Sidney M. Ross who had been in business in Bonnyville and before that had been employed in High River where he had attained some success playing hockey on the Alberta Championship team. As Ross took over the Sloane store, Sloane's took over the Ross store in Bonnyville. The Ross store in Grande Prairie was later to become Campbell Drugs Ltd.

A second drug store was to be opened in Grande Prairie in 1916 by J. F. Kirby. Kirby, who is thought to have not been a pharmacist, stated "a competent pharmacist will be here March 1 st." The building was leased to the Peace River Drug Co. but in August 1916 it was reported that Kirby had enlisted in the Pioneer Engineer Corps.

A third pharmacy, or second if Kirby did not open, was established by Clayton G. Butchart, formerly of Edmonton, who, with E. Carthew, opened the City Drug Store July 1919. Butchart had been wounded while serving with the P.P.C.L.I. in 1915 and Carthew was a physician in Wabamun. The store was destroyed by fire within ten months but was rebuilt and renamed the Butchart Drug Store. By 1925 it had a soda fountain, ice cream parlour and a tea room in a new double sized building which was then thought to be "the largest drug store premises in the province". A new Neon sign was added in 1934. The "Bay" bought the property when it expanded and closed the drug store April



Pharmacists Lynn and Marian  
Holyroyd, Grande Prairie, 1976.

1957. Among Butchart's assistant pharmacists were Miles McPhee in 1923 and veterinarian Dr. S. H. McClelland who left in 1929 to open his own pharmacy in Hythe. Mr. Butchart had been a popular citizen, active in community work and served a term on council. He and Mrs. Butchart won the Grande Prairie Bridge championship in 1949. They retired to B.C. but Mr. Butchart died shortly after.

In 1940, Griff A. James opened a drug store and there was once again a James Drug in Grande Prairie. Once again Jimmy James was in pharmacy, this time with his son. Griff started with \$2,000, but the store grew and expanded in 1949. This pharmacy later closed and the prescription files were placed with Shamrock Drug.

There was a proliferation of drug stores in latter years. Lynn and Marian Holroyd owned and operated Holroyd's Drug Store for many years. It has since been sold but still operates under that name under the management of owner Maureen A. Heiken-Pearcy. Rick Campbell purchased the Sid Ross store, named it Campbell Drug and opened a second store known as Village Pharmacy with Irene Black managing. The two have now amalgamated at the Village location. Vern Wellman had the Shamrock Drug but he perished in an auto accident and the store was bought by John and Irene Krowchuk. It has now removed to become part of the Co-op complex. For a short time the I.G.A. food store had a drug store section. Norman Zacharuk opened a pharmacy and Ellen Ingram manages General Drugs. London Drug now has one of its stores here. Shoppers Drug Mart have two outlets managed by Douglas Bain and Curtis Crough and the Safeway now contains a pharmacy department.

The hospital pharmacy is managed by Linda Arnett with a staff of five pharmacists.

**Grimshaw.** Harry A. Martin, a 1927 A.Ph.A. registrant, operated a drug store in Grimshaw. The next to appear was Tony Romaniuk who had a store in the old theatre building. It was sold to George Jonson of Fairview who has since built a new modern store, one of the largest in the north. This Grimshaw I.D.A. Drugs is managed by Bobby J. Jonson with assistants Kelly Coutts.

The Grimshaw/Berwyn and District hospital pharmacy is managed by Henry A. Martell (see Berwyn as well).

**Grouard.** In 1912, Joseph Boulanger was registered with A.Ph.A. as being at Grouard. Dr. Morton E. Hall also registered in 1916 but it is not known if he owned a drug store. There was a Northwestern Drug Co. in the directory of 1914 but the owner is not known. No drug store was listed in the 1920's nor have we any knowledge of one in Grouard since.

**High Level.** This is another town created by the discovery of oil. In the 1960's, Elaine Atkinson of Swift Current registered in Alberta and opened a drug store in High Level. Due to ill health she sold the business to Aaron Sanderson who subsequently sold to Karen S. Komarnicki. The hospital pharmacy is managed by Carmelle McKenzie assisted by Karen Komarnicki and Linda Zouboules.

**High Prairie.** Arthur Roderick McEwen, who had been in Calgary, was registered as being here in 1911. Frank Morley Duguid came here from Edson to practise in the 1920's. Dr. E. L. McIntyre, a member of A.Ph.A., had the High Prairie Drug Store 1920 to 1924 with Mr. Duguid as manager. The Dales Drug Store was listed in the 1924 directory.

Research reveals that Gordon Retallack was in High Prairie as manager replacing Mr. Duguid, in the period 1950-52. For many years there were two stores, viz; Merner's Drug Store managed by Murray Johnston and the Wood's Clinic Pharmacy managed by Bob Brearley. Presently there is the High Prairie Pharmacy operated by David F. Heggie. Mike Fields operates the Medicine Bottle Drug Mart.

A large store, Medicine Bottle Drug Mart #7, operates here managed by Keith Martin assisted by Jason Wai To.

The pharmacy at the hospital is managed by Brian Lowery.

**Hinton.** Dr. George Megor (A.Ph.A. 1912) gave Hinton as his address. Hinton, in fact, became like two towns with the major part on the flats near the pulp mill and an upper town along the Yellowhead highway. In partnership with Cliff and Kay King of Vegreville, Clayton H. Richardson started King Drug in the lower town. He later bought out the King interests and operated the store for

several years. He sold to pharmacists John and Audrey McVey who continue to practise as King Value Drug Mart.

Carl Sobolowski started the Timberland Pharmacy in 1957. He sold to Randy Murray who had Murray Carlson managing his drug store.

William A. Switzer started Switzer Drug in Hinton, was mayor of the town and a Liberal M.L.A. for several years. Bill died prematurely of a heart attack. The store has since been sold to manager Kenneth J. Brady who operates Switzer Drug in greatly expanded premises. The hospital pharmacy manager is Audrey McVey.

**Hythe.** It was rumoured that Henry Wilberforce "Buck" Rogers would open a drug store in Hythe in 1928. It is not known if he ever did. Rogers had drug stores at Wembley and Beaverlodge. In 1929 a drug store was opened by Dr. S. H. McClelland. The newspaper announced that he was "an honour graduate of the Guelph Veterinary College and in all, has had 22 years experience in the drug business". (As McClelland had graduated in pharmacy in 1921, this would indicate a very long apprenticeship). McClelland installed the first awning and it was the talk of the town. He sold the business to A.R. McEwen in early 1931. McEwen was well travelled having served in Calgary, High Prairie, Bowden and Westlock. The store burned to the ground in March 1931 with McEwen and his son escaping in their night clothes.

Hythe was without a pharmacy for many years until Diane Drewlo built a new building and opened a business. Unfortunately that store was lost to fire so she moved to premises in the old hospital where she still conducts the Hythe Family Drugs Ltd. Diane also dispenses in the pharmacy of the Hythe Municipal Hospital.

**Innisfree.** J. Adamson was the first to have a drug store at Innisfree, in 1911. A. W. Bethune, an A.Ph.A. registrant, had a drug store here in 1914. Frederick T. Westcott (A.Ph.A. 1912) came here in 1920, and A. T. Bennett in 1923. Thomas Claude Laws (A.Ph.A. 1925) is listed in the directories from 1928 into the 1930's. Claude Laws had a book-keeping system deserving of comment. Everybody's credit was good for 30 days! If you made a purchase "on time", Claude would tear off a piece of wrapping paper upon which he wrote your name, the item purchased, the price etc. e.g. Mike Modano-Wampoles C.L.Ext. \$1.00, Feb 19, 1929. If the item was paid for before March 19,-good! If not the record was destroyed after 30 days and Mike Modano had no credit standing at Laws Drug Store.

Leslie Torrance practised here circa 1945. He and his brother Clarence had a pharmacy at nearby Mannville and thus may have had a branch in Innisfree as well.

Another item of passing interest; The station master was a Mr. Christmas. He had a daughter Mary. So, "Yes Virginia, there WAS a Mary Christmas".

**Islay.** Gordon Edwards (A.Ph.A. 1929) came to Islay via Lethbridge. A Dr. B. E. Knapp, not on A.Ph.A. register, was said to have had a store in the 1928-1929 year. The drug store located there today is the Islay Pharmacy managed by Fern Marie McNaughton who also dispenses at the Islay Hospital pharmacy.

**Jasper.** Among the early "drug store proprietors" in Jasper were the names of E. F. Niven and Fred Jackman, but as neither were registered with A.Ph.A., these businesses were not proper pharmacies. W. G. N. "Pop" Johnson and Charles Edward Carthew both appeared in the 1929 business directories. Carthew's name appeared in many locations in the north and in one as a "certified clerk" which was a title used in the Maritimes, however both he and Johnson were pharmacists.

Annie Simpson, the first woman in Western Canada to become a pharmacist, operated her own drug store in Jasper from 1924 to 1938. Orren C. Olson formerly of Stettler, then with McDermid Drug in Calgary, operated a pharmacy here from 1926 for many years. This drug store was heavily oriented to photography, probably due to his experience with McDermid Drug. Vern Neely, who had been at Sylvan Lake, opened one drug store in Jasper and eventually a second one.

After World War II, R. W. "Bob" Dowling joined forces with John Moxness to establish a drug store across from the C.N.R. station. Sometime later they built a new store on Patricia Street called Cavell Value Drugs. It is managed by Myron Kowalyk. Bob was a Progressive Conservative M.L.A. for several years and occupied various cabinet posts. Other pharmacists who have practised in Jasper include: J. H. Lines, John F. Claxton, Miss. Bennett, and Jack S. Agnew.

The Seton General Hospital pharmacy is managed by Dennis Shellenberg assisted by Myron Kowalyk.

**Kitscoty.** Dr. David W. Whillans (APhA 1912) had a drug store in Kitscoty about 1910-12. W. James Kennedy had a store there in 1920-23. Joseph B. Mackay had a drug store here from 1914 to at least 1924. S. H. Passmore, formerly at Saskatoon, had a drug store in Kitscoty in the late 1920's. There has been no drug store in Kitscoty for many years.

**Lac La Biche.** Apparently, Harold Merrick of the Merrick chain of drug stores got his start in Lac La Biche in 1916-17. Anna Blackberg (nee Hole) shows a Lac La Biche address. She may have worked for Brock Duncan who had a store

there before removing to Medicine Hat.

More recently the Lac La Biche Value Drug Mart was built by Ed Stremicki and has been operated by William E. Lambert. Ken Boettcher also dispensed at this pharmacy. At about the same time, Crescent Drug Ltd. was started by Zicki Eludin. He has since opened a second store known as Cedar Pharmacy. It is managed by his son Smiley.

The pharmacy at the William J. Cadzow hospital is managed by Fred Wisbling.

**La Crete.** For a short time a drug store was operating at La Crete owned by Aaron Sanderson. It no longer boasts a drug store.

**Lake Saskatoon.** Messrs. Ralph W. Thompson(1912), B. Brown (1914), C. W. Spinks (1918) were all mentioned in news reports as operating a "drug store" here. None were registered by A.Ph.A.

Mr. Thompson died of 'flu in the 1918 epidemic. Jack Fyfe had a retail drug store here.

**Lamont.** The first pharmacy was owned and operated by Robert E. Harrison from 1906 until 1944. Mr. Harrison was a graduate of O.C.P in 1904 and became President of both the Alberta and Canadian Associations. Early customers must have expected extraordinary service from Mr. Harrison as a printed label exists from his store bearing the words: R. E. Harrison - Gasoline. Robert was succeeded by his nephew R. Stewart Harrison who had spent some time at Wasetna and Waskatenau neither of which has had a pharmacy since the 1930's. Stewart Harrison sold the store to Bud Haverstock who in turn sold to Joan Weeks (Cholak). It is now the Lamont Value Drug Mart owned by Bill Bilan of Vegreville and managed by his wife Mary Anne Bilan, assisted by Marilyn Aiello.

Other pharmacists who practised in Lamont in some capacity include Dr. W. T. Rush, Duncan M. Torrie, Albert W. Holmes(1926), N. J. W. Archer (1934) and Art Mickelson 1977 to 1982.

Lawrence Haverstock is the pharmacist manager at both the Archer Memorial Hospital and the Lamont-Smoky Lake Hospital, assisted by Dianne Donnan.

**Legal.** A drug store was operated here from at least 1920 to 1929 by Dr. L. A. Grant who registered with A.Ph.A. in 1916. In 1979 a drug store was opened by Bernice Montpetit. After seven months she sold it to Arnold Irion. The store was relocated to a new building one block north. It is still owned and operated by Arnold Irion.



**Lloydminster.** Lloydminster began its history as Lloydminster, Saskatchewan. A minor oil boom in the 1940's increased its size dramatically. The meridian of longitude runs north and south down main street so half of it (now probably the larger half) is in Alberta. The Alberta side grew and prospered because Alberta had no sales tax and citizens chose to shop on the "Alberta side". Saskatchewan removed the sales tax and Lloydminster became a "free town". It is interesting to recall that pharmacists billed the respective province on the basis of the existing government sponsored plan.

Arthur Mickleson opened a pharmacy on the Alberta side. Today Sprucewood Pharmacy, Shoppers Drug Mart and the Real Canadian Superstore all show Alberta addresses.

Charles S. Aston, one of the early pharmacists in Lloydminster registered with the APhA in 1911 but spent most of his practising life in Saskatchewan. His Aston and Miller's Medical Hall Drug Co. existed 1911 to 1929. Aston also served in Marwayne. Miller was not a pharmacist but a Cecil C. Aston, who worked there, was.

Betty Cook Laycraft apprenticed here with her uncle, Charles Moxley, who, although located on the Saskatchewan side, registered with A.Ph.A. in 1914.

**Manning.** The Town of Manning (fifty miles north of Peace River) saw its first pharmacy with the arrival of Eddie Narbeske. Eddie sold the pharmacy to Danny Paulovich who recently built a large new drugstore a block north. He is assisted by his wife Bonnie, and Mara McGaffey. Bonnie Look is pharmacist at the Manning General Hospital.

**Mannville.** Early history is rather vague. Fred C. Long started a drug store here in a tent prior to 1905 at which time he moved to Vermilion. At about 1910 Dr. Bruce operated a drug store. Sydney L. Eversfield was in business here circa 1924. S. K. Smith, who was in Mannville in the teen years, possibly dispensing for Dr. Bruce, took over that drug store about 1926. Sometime between then and 1932, James Third was the druggist.

In 1932, the Torrance family bought the store from Mr. Third and Clarence Torrance (APhA President 1948 - 50) was the druggist until his death in 1961. He was active in community affairs and sang with the United Church choir. His brother Leslie continued operating the store until 1963. Leslie also operated the drug store in Innisfree for a time after his discharge from the army in 1945. A few years after selling Torrance's Drug Store in Mannville, Leslie was employed in the local hospital for about two years.

Bryan Corkery purchased Torrance's Drug Store in 1963 and operated it as Bryan's Pharmacy until 1969. Bryan was very active in the community. He was

a member of the local B.P.O. Elks, and played on the Mannville Golden Hawks senior hockey team.

On February 1, 1969 Bryan sold his pharmacy to Stewart Nickerson who operated it as Clevan Drugs Ltd. until June 25, 1977. "Stew" was active in the Elks, Chamber of Commerce, Curling Club and the performing arts society. He became the second pharmacist to sing with the church choir in Mannville. After selling to Art Mickelson he continued to live in Mannville.

Art Mickelson, operating as Mannville Pharmacy Ltd., did not take up residence in Mannville. He later opened a new pharmacy in Lamont and ran the two from his residence near Mundare. On October 26, 1982 he sold Mannville Pharmacy back to Stew Nickerson. He also sold the Lamont store and later located to Lloydminster.

Stew Nickerson, having had several changes in vocations during the five years off, was content to get back into the same old store. December 1988 finds him still operating as Mannville Pharmacy Div. of Clevan Drugs Ltd.

**Marwayne.** Charles S. Aston, formerly at Lloydminster, had a drug store in Marwayne from 1918 to 1929, at least. His daughter Muriel apprenticed with him. Marwayne has had no drug store for many years although a man by the name of Tigar was there in the late twenties. No further information is known.

**Mayerthorpe.** Ian Campbell Ellis came from Edmonton. He registered with the APhA in 1929. Ellis left to represent the Johnson and Johnson Co. then served as a dispenser in World War II.

Richard Walter had a drug store here in the 1970's at least and Estor Laidlaw did some relief work for Mr. Walter.

Gordon Edwards had the Rexall drug store in Mayerthorpe until his retirement to B.C. Mr. Edwards sold his store to J. A. Michael Field who managed it for several years, and the present manager is Richard C. Walter. It was the start of the Medicine Bottle Chain.

The pharmacy at the local hospital is managed by Susan Fediuk.

**McLennan.** Dr. Desrosiers opened a pharmacy in McLennan in 1935. He hired a Miss Browning who possessed the degree of B.Sc. in Pharmacy. The Northern Tribune reported that "Miss Browning was one of 15 druggists to possess a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy, the most exacting degree a druggist can obtain."

Horace Robert Steeves left Black Diamond to practice in McLennan, probably in the late 1930's. He left pharmacy for a number of years when he was appointed a Police Magistrate.

Don Merner took over the drug store and enlarged it to contain physician offices and a bank.

The store was purchased by Ron Schuster of Falher. The McLennan I.D.A. Pharmacy is managed now by Joanne M. Larison who is often assisted by Frank Wesolowski of Peace River.

The Sacred Heart Health Centre pharmacy is staffed by Ron Schuster, Joanne Larison, Guy Houle and Barbara Gardlecki.

**Medley.** Medley is the airforce base near Grand Centre and Cold Lake. Reg O'Neill from Cold Lake and Grace Miller from Grand Centre provided a pharmacy service. For a period of years, 1965-1985, the base had its own pharmacy. There is no pharmacy here presently.

**Mirror Landing.** C.W.F. Geaudette (A.Ph.A. 1912) had a drug store here circa 1914.

**Morinville.** It is believed the first drug store here was the Roper Pharmacy opened by Wright R. Roper in 1913 or 1914 and run by him until he moved to Edmonton circa 1922. He sold to Fred Mills who then acquired a drug store in Athabasca and retained Gordon E. Robinson to manage the Morinville store. Robinson bought the business in 1947. Prior to this he had been at the General Hospital for eight years. He lost the lease and returned to Edmonton. The then building burned down in 1948. Hal Gaetz was retained to manage the original store.

Other early registrants in Morinville, who may or may not have had a retail pharmacy include: Mr. Croisette, here from 1910 until the 1930's but who didn't register with A.Ph.A. until 1924; Andrew J. Hamilton, NWT and A.Ph.A., at least from 1911 to 1914; a Mr. Lavalee; Frederick E. Nolan or Noland in 1920; Harry Malone in 1924; Sidney A. Rawsell 1921.

In the 1940's and 1950's the names Norman Archer, J. H. Lines, and Paul Abele appear as registered at Morinville, as well as Mr. Gaetz.

Presently Morinville is served by three pharmacies;

Guardian Drugs Medicine Chest with Robert Ellison and Lorne Baldwin.

Champlain Pharmacy with Edeana Watkins and Norman Hodgson.

Morinville Drug Store with Norman P. Challifoux and Bernice Montpetit.

**Mundare.** Charles Shaw and his wife Elizabeth had a drug store here in 1907 only. Dr. C. F. Connolly registered with A.Ph.A. in 1916 and had a drug store here until at least 1929. Two pharmacists in Mundare during this early period include Duncan M. Torrie (A.Ph.A. 1921) in 1924 and D. F. T. Torrie (A.Ph.A. 1930).

**F.W. Johnston** came to Mundare from Edmonton and ran his drug store until he died in 1944. He also raised mink. Angela Keat (Shulba) had a pharmacy in 1940 in opposition to Mr. Johnson but later closed it. By 1944 there was only the former Johnson pharmacy which was bought and enlarged by E. L. "Ted" Marles. Doris Johnston, who was a sister-in-law to Mr. Johnston, worked with him then stayed on with Mr. Marles for part of his seven month stay in Mundare.

Next to arrive on the scene was Bill Ilkiw. Mr. Ilkiw died and for years there was no drug store here until one was opened by Randy Seniuk. Oliver Wasnea bought this pharmacy and as the Mundare Community Drug Mart is presently Mundare's only drug store. Charlene Blair dispenses at the hospital pharmacy.

**Myram.** Carl Navalkowski arrived from Edmonton to open a drug store. Maurice Makowichuk worked in this store in the 1940's before his apprenticeship. Carl closed the store and moved to Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. A store was opened by Mary Yakimovvich. It was down graded to a patent medicine and gift store and it is believed that it now ceases to be in business.

**Onoway.** W. F. Levasseur was in Onoway in 1925 and perhaps longer. Dr. P. Wolochow and a Charles Byden are shown in the directories as operating drug stores. Neither was a member of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

After being without a pharmacy for many years, Fred A. White opened the Onoway Pioneer Pharmacy. It has recently been sold but Mr. White continues to manage it.

**Pakan.** Dr. Catherine A. H. Lawford acted as the pharmacist here for at least the years 1916 to 1918. She was later at Smoky Lake.

**Peace River.** A great many pharmacists have served in Peace River according to the names on the record.

Three physicians took out a registration with the APhA, one being Dr. Harvey in 1914 at Peace River Crossing. He left Alberta in 1920. Dr. Bayfield registered in 1918. Dr. William B. L. Donald registered in 1920.

Pharmacists who have served include: W. G. N. "Pop" Johnson - APhA 1911; Andrew Hanna - 1914 (Hanna Drug Co.); Samuel H. Hanna - 1916; Robert Wm. Love - 1918; David Dale - 1919 (then to Berwyn); Gordon Hull - 1920 (then to Fairview); Earl R. P. Copeland; Ralph B. Cooper (later Edmonton, Calgary, Camrose and Sedgewick); Frank Hamilton - 1929.

The constant shifting eased somewhat when Ross Phillip Landon Lane bought the Peace River Drug Co. from Mr. Johnson. It was going well and

traffic to the north was escalating. Lane started a second store in partnership with Al Campbell (later of Calgary). A runaway gas truck with no brakes came careening down the hill and lost its load of petrol in a creek bed that ran beside the store. It ignited and the Lane-Campbell store burned to the ground. The store was eventually rebuilt with Frank Wesolowski as Lane's partner.

Frank left to open a bigger store further north known as Northern Pharmacy. The store which he vacated was bought by Vernon Peter Harder who later moved to a larger building south and east. For a short time a young lady operated a prescriptions only pharmacy but it was short lived.

Meanwhile Bob Kinshella opened a drug store in the Mall. He has since relocated in a large modern store on main street operated as Value Drug Mart. Mr. Kinshella purchased Northern Pharmacy from Frank Wesolowski. It is managed by Bob's son Michael.

Previous to these latter activities, Horace Robert Steeves, previously of McLennan, opened a drug store on main street and eventually removed to the other side of main street. Mr. Steeves retired and our information is that he is deceased.

Henry A. Martell is pharmacist at the Peace River Hospital.

**Poplar Hill.** A drug store was reported as being opened by Rheims and Pulvier in November 1940.

**Radway.** A drug store was opened by Stephen Sereda circa 1936. Subsequently Fred Stefanyk operated a drug store in Radway. Reg O'Neill worked there in the 1970's. Dr. Mahalingham built a new clinic which also housed a drug store operated for several years by Wayne Hall. Mr. Hall is pharmacist at the Radway Health Centre pharmacy.

**Ranfurly.** George Arthur is alleged to have had a "drug store" here in 1928 - 29; he does not appear on the A.Ph.A. records.

**Redwater.** This is another town spawned by the discovery of oil. The first store was opened at the height of the Redwater boom in 1952 by Jim Lukes. It was called Luke's Drug Store. Jim has since moved to Calgary and still is associated with Luke's Drug Store in the Bridgeland area of that city. Malcolm Mackay, managed Luke's Drug Store from 1958 to 1961 when he bought it, renaming it Mackay's Pharmacy Ltd.

Malcolm owned and managed the store until 1971 when he sold it to Joseph C. Lee and opened a store in St. Albert. Joseph Lee sold his Redwater Pharmacy to Terry Danchuk about 1983. Terry still operates his newly

renovated and enlarged Terrene Pharmacy in 1992.

In the late 50's a young lady opened a store next to Malcolm MacKay. It lasted about one year.

In 1990, Rosemary Bacovsky managed the pharmacy at the Redwater General Hospital.

**Riviere Qui Barre.** Lennox Tice was in business here with a drug store circa 1913-1916.

**Rolla.** J. Love opened a "drug store" here September 1921. His name did not appear on the A.Ph.A. register but at about the same period there was a pharmacist R. W. Love at Peace River. Whether there was some connection or relationship is not known.

**Rycroft.** A twin to and a stones throw down the road from Spirit River, we have no information that Rycroft ever had a drug store.

**Saddle Lake.** There is a pharmacy at Saddle Lake in the health (hospital) complex on the reserv'e. This small pharmacy, dealing almost entirely in prescriptions, serves the native population of the Saddle Lake Indian Reserve. It is owned and operated by Barrie K. Green.

**St. Albert.** A Mr. H. Lionel Hunt was registered with A.Ph.A. in 1911 with St. Albert as his address, however the St. Albert Pharmacy, opened 1955, is believed to have been the first pharmacy in town. This store was originally a food store in the centre of town on Perron Street. Mr. Joe Meleshko bought the property and changed it to a pharmacy complete with a library of medical reference books. It was located across the street from the famous Bruin Inn. Unfortunately Mr. Meleshko died in April, 1981 and the pharmacy was subsequently closed.

Medical Centre Drugs opened its dispensary October 1965. It was managed in turn by Iris Kowalchuk, Arnie Irion, Marie de Bruyn, and Jeanne Rouse. Since 1969, the owner, Malcolm A. Mackay, has managed his pharmacy.

Grandin Rx Centre Inc. Owned and operated by Edward Dunik and Don Saunders, this dispensary opened in September 1973. Mr. Dunik managed this dispensary until ill health forced his early retirement. Mr. Dunik unfortunately died in October 1981. Since then the dispensary has been managed by Donna J. Radomski, and her assistant, Carolyn Eastwick. The dispensary is owned now by Mr. Dunik's son Brian.

Shoppers Drug Mart. This pharmacy opened in May of 1980. It is owned

and operated by Henry L. Resta. Assistant pharmacists are Shari Langridge and Katherine McDonald.

Liberton Pharmacy Pharmacist Van Gardener opened this dispensary in October 1981. Manager pharmacist is M. Lynn Troskey and her assistant pharmacist is Terri Lee Turner.

Four Seasons Drugs (Guardian Drugs) This store is owned and operated by Mr. Sam Lau. The pharmacy opened in October 1981. Store manager is Aaron W. Sanderson, Assistant pharmacists are Dennis Vas and Annette Eng.

Grandin Value Drug Mart No. 114 Owned and operated by Roy Doucette. This pharmacy opened in the fall of 1987. Assistant pharmacists are Kevin Ehman and George Ng. This pharmacy was originally owned and operated by Tamblyn Drugs, who were taken over by Boots Drug Stores and then bought by Mr. Doucette in 1987.

Safeway Pharmacy No. 131. The dispensary is managed by Karen F. Maurier. Assistant pharmacists are Denise J. Wrystiuk and Mary Graham.

Safeway Pharmacy No. 103 The dispensary is managed by James. H. Ferguson. Assistant pharmacists are Shawn Burrell full-time, and Sharon Sawke, part-time.

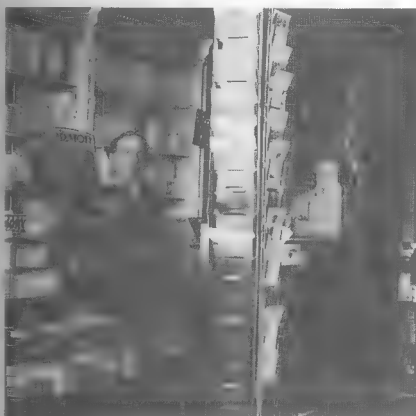
The Sturgeon General Hospital pharmacy was operated for five years by Michael A. Bain. Presently it is staffed by Mavis Olsen, Judy Musey and Jane Musey.

**St. Paul.** Mr. William Edward "Ted" Skitch opened the first pharmacy in St. Paul. Prior to his arrival, local doctors Charlesbois and Gagnon, dispensed from their offices, and an early registrant was Lloyd E. Furry circa 1916 but his role here is not known.

Mr. Skitch was a graduate of the University of Toronto in 1914. He served in the Canadian Army overseas from 1914 - 1918. After discharge he returned to his home in Edmonton. He worked for a short time for Liggett's and Smith's Drug Store.

He moved to St. Paul in 1920 and opened the St. Paul Pharmacy. He married Madeline Dubuc in 1921. She was a French girl he met in France during the war. Mr. Skitch and his wife were active in many of the town's organizations. He was President of the St. Paul branch of the Canadian Legion for several years and a member of the Red Cross Legion and Hospital Auxiliary. A son Gerald was born in 1926.

Among those who apprenticed with Mr. Skitch were Bill Ferguson, Joe Tredger, Helen (Brosseau) Hilary, Charlie Fyfe and many others. Mr. Skitch was a fine Christian man and a great teacher in matters of pharmacy importance. Mr. Skitch sold his store to Ted Paradis and retired to Vancouver.



Ted Skitch in St. Paul Pharmacy, circa 1930.



Ted Skitch and son Gerard; St. Paul Pharmacy, circa 1930.

Mr. Paradis formed a partnership with Robert "Bob" Porozni. The two built a new pharmacy on main street. It is now known as St. Paul Value Drug Mart. Mr. Porozni bought Mr. Paradis' interest and is the owner of the store. Mr. Paradis renders pharmacy service at the St. Therese Hospital in St. Paul.

At one point Doug McPherson and Barrie Green operated a pharmacy in St. Paul. McPherson is now at Elk Point and Green is at Saddle Lake.

The Co-op has a drug department managed for the last many years by Ardell Kitz, with Erin Seal and Cecil Kitz.

In 1984 Daniel Wolanski opened St. Paul Pharmacy (1984) Ltd. on main street. He is assisted by Amy Thomson

More recently, Dale Zalaski, formerly of Bonnyville, opened St. Paul Guardian Drug Mart in a new mall west of the Co-op Mall.

**Sandugo.** An Ernest Dumbrell is cited in the directory as having a drug store in 1928 - 29. He was not registered with the A.Ph.A.

**Sexsmith.** James and Shaw who had a pharmacy in Grande Prairie also had a pharmacy in Sexsmith and soon after had one in Pouce Coupe, B.C. The Sexsmith store was opened in 1920. Pharmacist J. Griffith was also associated with Dr. Shaw, circa 1920, in the Sexsmith Drug Co. Physician Shaw and pharmacist James employed Gilbert C. Smith to manage the store which later became known as the G. C. Smith store. After the death of Bert Smith in 1948, the store became known as the Sexsmith Drug store and was owned by Messrs. Donald Robertson and Sharpe. After this there was no drug store in Sexsmith



until Griff James of Grande Prairie opened a store with Bob Dowling as manager. When Bob elected to remove to Jasper the store again closed.

It re-opened in the recent past when Susan Williams came to town. After a disastrous robbery the store was closed again.

It was re-opened by a Mrs. Wilson a non-pharmacist who hired Glen McCuish to be the manager. After a short period Mr. McCuish purchased the business but it failed. Sexsmith has had no drug store again, for the past couple of years.

**Sherwood Park.** This town was born when refinery row commenced on the eastern fringe of Edmonton and began to grow in Strathcona County. A whole new residential area materialized.

Jean Dawdy (Phillips) opened the first drug store in Sherwood Park with husband Vern Dawdy. Sherwood Park started as a town in 1955 with the development by John Hooke Campbell. Jean and Vern were the third family to buy a home in the new town. They sold the store in 1974 to Bob Symon and Art Kreise. Kreise had been with Parke Davis and Syman with Abbott. Bob Symon had opened a store in the Broadmoor Medical Clinic. The next pharmacy was opened by Hosam Ibrahim who has now relocated to Whyte Avenue in Edmonton.

Since those early happenings Sprague Drug had a drug store in the Eastgate Shopping Centre. Rosemarie Biggs opened a pharmacy near Muttarts but has removed to Chippewa Road in west Sherwood Park.

In the recent past there has been an explosion of drug stores as Sherwood Park grew towards fifty thousand population. Listed now are Dispensaries Ltd. (successor to Dolar Drug); Fairlane Drug Mart; Guardian Drugs; London Drugs; two Safeway store drug departments; Sherwood Dispensaries and Home Care; two Shoppers Drug Mart stores and a pharmacy department in Zellers.

**Shoal Lake.** Walter Emil Arenos was registered under the N.W.T. Ph.A. then in 1912 with the A.Ph.A., giving Shoal Lake as his address.

**Slave Lake.** The first pharmacy in Slave Lake was Barton's Drugs Ltd. opened by Wendy Barton (Hobbs) with her husband Dennis. After a period of time a second store partnered by Bartons and Brian Nordbye appeared on the scene. It was known as Slave Lake I.D.A. Drugs and is now owned and managed by Brian Nordbye, assisted by Patricia Brown.

The hospital pharmacy is staffed by J.Gary Langford and Clifford Ginn.

**Smoky Lake.** The first pharmacy was opened by A. W. Holmes, formerly of Lamont. Dr. Catherine A. H. Lawford was registered with A.Ph.A. and listed in the directories of 1920-1922 under druggists, but it is not known if she had a retail store. For a time a drug store was operated by Alex and Mike Shysh. The Holmes Drug was sold to Eugene Kolotyluk who still owns and manages it as Smoky Lake Drugs. More recently a pharmacy was opened by Patricia Carson, known as White Earth Drugs, she still owns and operates this store.

Betty-Ann Gillund is pharmacist at the local hospital.

Former Registrar of A.Ph.A., Larry Shipka and his wife Nadia both hail from Smoky Lake.

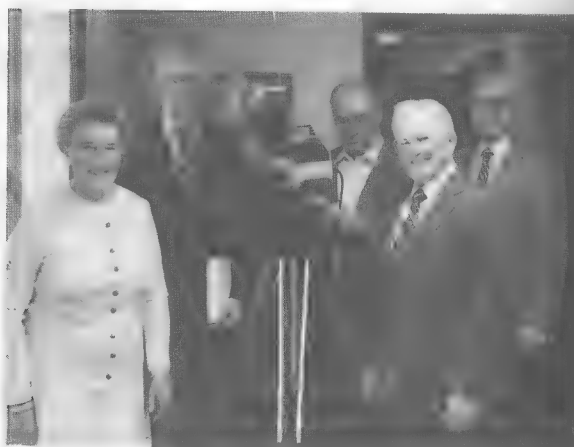
**Spirit River.** For a number of years a drug store was listed as the Spirit River Pharmacy owned and operated by a Russell A. Harrington an O.C.P graduate who registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1919. Donald H. Robertson was in Spirit River before moving to Sexsmith in 1948.

The years between are unaccounted for until Dr. Law established a "drug store" but was not registered with the APhA. He persuaded Mel Cragg to take over the "drug store" which he did. He employed a Calgary pharmacist with a promise of a buy-out opportunity. That agreement became a "sticky wicket" until Len Dersch eventually did buy him out. Dersch died of a brain aneurism and the property upon which he proposed to build was sold to Ed Strembecki who built a new store on the site. It has been managed for years by James Hudson Holmes who eventually purchased it and operates it as Spirit River Drug (1980) Ltd. He had to assist him, Norm Zacharuk who once owned a pharmacy in Grande Prairie.

**Spruce Grove.** The city of Spruce Grove came into being as a bedroom town for Edmonton. It had existed as a "watering place" for years and saw Cliff Carmichael open a drug store.

A rapid escalation in population soon resulted in a rapid escalation in drug store population. Don Vickerson opened Grove Drugs. Walter Baydala owns and operates two drug stores viz: Baydala (Spruce Grove) Drugs and Baydala Cambria Value Drug. Safeway operates a drug department and Shoppers Drug Mart is located on McLeod Avenue.

**Stony Plain.** Dr. Oatway, who registered with A.Ph.A. as at Stony Plain in 1913, had the first pharmacy here. Originally on main street he moved a block south. J. P. Crowe and J. H. Puley were the druggists with Oatway. Oatway sold to a John. F. Clarke who had registered in 1920. Clarke sold to J. Murray Byers on December 1, 1940.



Esme and Murray Byers, front,  
with Walter Boddy, Joe Stepa,  
and Walter Maday.

Murray Byers was in the navy at H.M.C.H. Nonsuch in Edmonton and attempted to sell his store. A deal was made but did not materialize so Murray limped through the war with a variety of "fill-ins". He then employed Hal Gaetz who remained with him for years. Gaetz died in the early 1980's.

Murray sold Byers Drug Store to Doug Cowan in 1970. He had been in control for exactly thirty years. One of his long time employees Cliff Carmichael went to Spruce Grove.

Doug Cowan opened a second store in the complex where the physicians were located. The store was managed by Jas A. Ferguson. The physicians moved to west of main street and Doug followed suit. He now operates Douglas Guardian Drugs on 48th Street with Theresia Howard as manager as well as the Regional Parkland Value Drug Mart.

In the meantime, Don Vickerson and Peter Martin opened Stony Plain I.D.A. Pharmacy on 48th Street in a mall. It is managed by Peter Martin presently.

Safeway has opened and operated a drug department in its store on South Park Drive.

**Swan Hills.** Like several other towns, Swan Hills was created by the oil industry in its never ending search for oil. Walter Baydala had a pharmacy in Swan Hills in the 1960's. He closed it down. Medicine Bottle Drug Mart recommenced a store there in the recent past. It is managed by Gerald W. White, assisted by Margaret Krinkle.

**Thorhild.** Nellie Estabrook (McComb) opened a store in Thorhild in 1934. It was known as Estabrook Pharmacy. It was sold in 1940 and operated as a patent medicine store. Matthew John "Matt" Rowland moved his drug store

from Clyde to Thorhild. His son, Walter R. Rowland carried on the store in recent years. When Thorhild no longer had a drug store, Darrel Coma commenced a store in a building owned by the town. It had been a bank with a huge safe. It has probably the best "security" of any store in Alberta.

**Two Hills.** Dick Geleta (A.Ph.A. 1940) had a drug store here. He was the Mayor, president of the Chamber of Commerce, sports facility director, and, in fact the heart and soul of Two Hills. He received the Robins Bowl of Hygia for a community effort that may be unequalled. During his tenure a second store was started in the south west corner of town. It was owned and operated by Valerie Ripka (now Peterson). She sold the store to Joan Weeks who eventually turned it into a clothing store. Coincidentally Joan Weeks opened a pharmacy in a mall near the centre of town. She re-married and became Mrs. Cholak. After operating the store for a few years she sold it to Amin Valgi and Nadir Shariff. They also owned and operated Capilano Centre Pharmacy in Edmonton. The Two Hills store is managed by Amin.

**Valleyview.** Grande Prairie and Peace River interests took turns at operating a patent medicine store at Valleyview. When oil made it more than a spot on the map, a drug store opened owned by Dr. James Bell. He eventually sold to a Mr. Brown. Brown sold to Mike Field of Medicine Bottle Drug Mart and a new, large modern drug store was built further up main street. It has been managed by Bradley Vancuren, assisted by Joseph Hansen and Vikki Cole.

**Vegreville.** Charles Shaw and his wife Elizabeth first started a store in Mundare for a year before arriving in Vegreville in 1908 to purchase a store owned by Dr. Field. Shaw operated the V. & V. Drug Store (Vegreville and Viking) until 1932. H. S. Monkman dispensed at this pharmacy prior to the Great War in which he lost his life. August Couillard, L. F. Mitchell and A. W. Holmes were pharmacists at Vegreville as well.

During this period Clayton T. Third arrived in Vegreville in 1927 and bought the business then conducted by Mr. S. L. Eversfield who had succeeded the late F. J. Long. In 1932 Jim Third joined his brother and took over the former Vegreville Drug and Book Co. from the late Charles E. Shaw.

On July 14, 1946 Third Bros. Drug Store was sold to Russel Allan Nikiforuk and Ted Langridge. The store was to continue as Third Bros. Drug Co. for the time being. This partnership continued until July, 1950, when Langridge moved to Banff.

In August of 1943 the old Vegreville and Viking store closed leaving Third Bros. Rexall Drug as the only drug store in town.

Russel renamed the store the Vegreville Rexall Store which it remained



l to r: Morris Hawkey, Prue Barnlett (m. Penley), Dave Thomson, Joe Sereda with Kay Aldridge (m. King) and Cliff King, 1941.

until Rexall was phased out and the I.D.A. franchise was adopted. Russel Nikiforuk died in 1983 and his wife, Ruby, carried on until 1986 when the doors closed. It had been in business for forty years.

In 1945 Cliff and Kathleen King(Aldridge), both pharmacists, opened King Drug across the street from Vegreville Drug. The Kings operated that store and a pharmacy in the hospital which they owned until they sold to Bob Fletcher. Fletcher continued to operate until December of 1991.

In June 1976 Greg Ziegler opened Guardian Drug. About five years later he sold to Bill Bilan who operated it for about two years. It was closed and a new store was built and opened in the downtown mall.

At about this same time Mark Sapara opened a new store called Combo Drug now known as Pharmasave. It is located in a mall in the west end.

Corinne Sutton and Charlene Blair are pharmacists at the two hospitals in Vegreville.

Ruby reminisces about the Rexall one cent sale when everybody stocked up on cough syrups, tonics and stationery for a year. What a monumental job just rearranging the store to compensate for the sale! Vegreville Drug may have been one of the last to close its lunch and coffee counter. It was a great place to replay the curling games, the bridge hands, share joys and sorrows and settle all the political and religious problems. It was a sad day when the lunch counter closed. For some it was the "end of the world". No more use to go downtown, the conversation and gossip centre was no more.

**Vermilion.** In the early 1900's Fred C. Long came to Alberta from Ontario. He initially settled near Mannville but in 1905 moved to Vermilion, the proposed rail road divisional point.

Supplies for his first dispensary, a small wooden frame covered by canvas, arrived from Edmonton on a river barge. In 1916 a more permanent wooden building was erected. It was destroyed by fire in 1918. It was rebuilt with brick. Since that date it has been expanded three times. In 1915 Long joined the C.A.M.C. so no doubt employed pharmacists, possibly E. J. Kibblewhite, Ted Skitch and Harold Magee, all of whom were at Vermilion at about that time. It is recorded that Fred Long and a friend once shot 18 geese in 18 minutes.

Fred's son, George Carmen Long, graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1939. He joined his father in 1941 and became the owner-manager when the senior Long moved to Edmonton.

The daughter of G. C. Long is Judith Bell, also a pharmacist.

One of the best known pharmacists to serve in Long's Drug Store was Sam Soldan. Sam had a friendly greeting for all whom he met.

Carmen Long died in 1974 and the store passed to son Brent, a non-pharmacist. Brent was deceased in 1986 and the store is now owned by wife Susan and pharmacist partner Craig Brown.

A Carlson Drug existed briefly in 1924. A second drug store that lasted was opened on railway avenue by Tom Millward, who ran it with his brother Sid. Jean Beecroft Moore apprenticed here and recalls one of her first duties was to moisten Sid's badminton birds daily and to moisten the brick which kept Sid's cigars fresh.

Millward's was eventually bought by J. Ross Boake who had been operating a drug store in Vilna. Mr. Boake became a president of the A.Ph.A.. Boake's Drug Store was re-located on main street and was later sold to Victor N. Dowhaniuk. It has recently been sold, (1992) to Craig Brown.

In the 1970's a mall was built in East Vermilion. It housed many retail operations including a drug store opened by Sheila McLean and shortly thereafter sold to Vic Dowhaniuk. It is now closed and Vermilion has returned to being a "two drug store" town.

Other pharmacists known to have practised here include; Herman Ganton, S. R. Luckham, R. A. McIvor, and H. C. Hassard.

The pharmacist at the Vermilion Hospital is Dianne C. Calder.

Vilna. The first drug store was opened by R. Ross Boake in the 1930's, although a "drug store" was listed as being owned by an unregistered R. Kennedy in 1928. Vilna Pharmacy has been operated by Michael Shysh for many years until 1990 when it was bought by Mike's nephew, Mark F. Harasymuk.

Michael Shysh and Lorraine Lawton have been pharmacists at the Our Lady Hospital.



Deans do more than ride herd on students. Ross Boake, right, introduces speaker Dr. M. J. Huston.

**Wabamun.** The first mention of a drug store cites Dr. Charles E. Carthew in 1922 to 1929. His name appears associated with many western and northern Alberta towns. In any event Wabamun was without a drug store for many, many years until about 1980 when a drug store was opened. It is now owned and managed by Ronald D. Marcinkoski.

**Wabasca-Desmarais.** About 1970 the government built a health complex at Desmarais. It houses a drug store to serve the natives who live on the north side of Lesser Slave Lake. It is not listed as a pharmacy.

**Waskatenau.** A "drug store" was listed in the business directories from 1920 to 1924 as being owned by John A. Alton, who was not registered with A.Ph.A.. A proper pharmacy must have operated here at one time as pharmacist Stewart Harrison worked there in the 1930's.

**Wasetna.** Stewart Harrison operated a drug store, purchased from a Dr. Balens, in the years 1938 - 44.

**Waterhole.** Gordon Hull, formerly at Fairview and Peace River, owned the Waterhole Drug Co. circa 1928-1929.

**Wembley.** Henry Wilberforce "Buck" Rogers opened a drug store in Wembley according to A.Ph.A. records but no date is given. In October 1926, a



Bob and Gwen McKenzie, left,  
visit with Myros and Tillie  
Samycia of Edmonton.

newspaper announcement refers to W. J. Rogers (error in initials ?) as opening and suggests that there had not been a pharmacy there until then. We have no record of this store beyond 1928.

**Westlock.** The first drug store was opened in 1913 by Lennox Tice. A Dr. Geddes bought that store in 1918. It was managed by Mr. A. R. McEwen from 1923-29. Art Griswold apprenticed here with McEwen. The business was bought by Mr. D. M. "Mac" Torrie who ran it from 1929 - 52. Mr. Torrie is thought to have been the first pharmacy graduate from the University of Alberta to become a president of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. Robert (Bob) Sutherland bought this store in 1952 and operated it for 20 years when it was sold to Michael Field. Pat Stiles was associated with Mr. Sutherland 1960 to 1972. Mr. Field had Norm Kitz as his manager and Kitz remained in Westlock and now operates a Medicine Bottle Value Drug Mart.

Michael Holyk opened the Super Drug Mart in 1963 and closed it in 1988. Vern Wellman opened Wellman Drug circa 1950 and after about a year sold it to Fraser Currie who in turn sold it to Bob Edgar in 1956. Bob Edgar operated the pharmacy until 1973 when he sold to Bob MacKenzie. Bob MacKenzie built a large, modern two story building a few doors away. It operates today as a Pharmasave store.

Michael Field established a second Medicine Bottle Drug Mart in Westlock which is managed by Gordon Bell. Guy Lacombe has opened a prescription only pharmacy called Associate Centre Pharmacy.

Richard Elashchuk is the pharmacist at both of the two hospitals in Westlock.



**Whitecourt.** The first drug store in Whitecourt was opened by Dr. P. S. Brown. As in the case with many Alberta towns Whitecourt “came alive” in the oil boom.

Gerald O. Lundgren either opened a store or bought out Dr. P. S. Brown. Lundgren then sold to Michael Field and the Medicine Bottle Drug Mart had reached Whitecourt. This pharmacy is staffed by John Schneider and Murray Burden. Michael opened a second drug store in the mall known as Kelly’s Drug Mart, managed by Allan Zan. Allan Zan also dispenses at the hospital pharmacy. At one point in time Darrel Ewanishan had a pharmacy there but closed it and moved to Edmonton.

**Whitelaw.** The Hull and Watt Drug Co. operated here in the late 1920’s. Gordon Hull was the pharmacist with non-pharmacist A. Watt as a business partner.

The Hotel Dieu St. Joseph pharmacy in Whitelaw is operated by Teresa Nicholson.

**Willingdon.** The first drug store in Willingdon was opened and operated by Stanley Syska in 1927 when the railroad went through. He erected a building on centre street to house his drug store and provide living quarters. He continued to operate until 1945 when he sold to Ludwig Navalkowski. Ludwig expanded the inventory to accommodate the needs of a community. In 1964 Ludwig closed the store and moved to Edmonton where he was employed at Imperial Drug. Willingdon has had no drug store since 1964.

*We wish to thank the following who provided some of the information for this chapter; Margaret Armfelt, Dale Onrait, Lynn Holroyd, Isabel Campbell, Helen Hillary, Ruby Nikiforuk, Gordon Retallack, Peter Ponich, Ronald Gaunce, Bill Poohkay, Walt Boddy, Walter Chorney.*

# Noteable Pharmacists of Alberta

by Donald M. Cameron and J. K. Penley

IN COMMENTING ON the lives and careers of "a few", a history fails to record the lives and careers of "the many".

The 1961 booklet celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association paid tribute to several of Alberta's pharmacy pioneers, as well it should have.

Historians and researchers may read, (therein), a few comments on such giants as: Mr. A. Archibald, Edmonton; Mr. H. W. Chambers, Didsbury; Mr. R. G. Cornett, Red Deer; Mr. Frank Cowles, Strathcona; Mr. G. C. Cuthill, Edmonton; Mr. Noel A. Farrow, Calgary; Mr. C. K. French, Hanna; Professor H. H. Gaetz, Red Deer; Mr. C. E. Gerhart, Coronation; Mr. G. H. Graydon, Edmonton; Mr. J. D. Higinbotham, Lethbridge; Mr. H. U. Johnstone, Camrose; Mr. Archie A. Keir, Trochu; Mr. F. C. Long, Vermilion; Mr. M. R. Maybank, Olds; Mr. Neil I. McDermid, Calgary; Mr. Hiram McKechnie, Calgary; Mr. J. A. Smith, Edmonton; Mr. J. W. "Wardie" Somers, Devon; Mr. H. A. Switzer, Edson; and Mr. M. J. "Jake" Warner, Edmonton.

Their stories will not be repeated in this book, but their names will likely be mentioned in recording the history of the first 100 years!

So giants come and giants go as well they must.

Note, if you will, that no lady pharmacist made the "honour roll" in the first 50 years!

That has changed! Please re-read the chapter on Women in Pharmacy.

To attempt to select a few upon whose lives and careers comments are to be made is a major undertaking.

## **Andrew “Andy” Charles Anderson**

Andrew Charles Anderson was born in Shabbona, Illinois, in 1910 and came with his parents to Champion, Alberta, in 1912. He graduated in pharmacy from the University of Alberta in 1934 and was employed at Kitson Pharmacy in Lethbridge for 14 years. In 1948 he started his own business, now Anderson’s Medical Dental Pharmacy Lethbridge Ltd.

He became involved in civic politics in 1950 with his election to the school board. Community service since that time included 14 years on the school board, three years on the city recreation commission, 38 years with Rotary, life member of the chamber of commerce, member of the university senate and board of governors, member of the St. Michael hospital board, member of the Alberta housing council, and on and on.

He became an alderman in 1964 and was chosen by his fellow councillors as Mayor upon the resignation of Frank Sherring in March 1968. In September 1984 he became the longest-serving Mayor in the history of the city. He did not seek re-election in October 1986.

Anderson was a central figure in all the important developments in Lethbridge over many years; park development, establishment of the university, expansion to West Lethbridge, sale of the city-owned power plant to Calgary Power, downtown redevelopment, railway relocation, Lethbridge Centre and Centre Site development, and building of the new city hall. Only the last of these was unresolved when he decided to retire from civic politics in 1986.

Anderson was largely instrumental in obtaining many millions of dollars from senior governments for the benefit of the City of Lethbridge. His successes lay in the deliberate attempt to be non-controversial, to marshal all the facts, to reach a consensus in council, and then to persuade voters of the correctness of the action.

## **Walter (Walt) Lewis Boddy**

Walt Boddy was born in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan January 16, 1920. He moved with his family to Thorsby, Alberta where he received his public and high school education before commencing his apprenticeship in pharmacy with Joe Ruzicka of Thorsby. Walt’s apprenticeship was interrupted by World War 2. He joined the First Canadian Survey Regiment and served in Canada, Britain, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, and finally in Holland.

Upon his return from five years of service, mostly overseas, he enrolled in pharmacy at the University of Alberta and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in 1949.

Walter served for fourteen years with Liggetts which was acquired by



Walter Boddy Retirement Party Committee 1984.

back (l to r): Bill Doland, Dave McRitchie, Walter Boddy, Ken Penley.

front (l to r): Larry Shipka, Norma May, Ron MacLean, Janet Holmes, Byron Bergh (absent: Doug Levy).

Tamblyn. For most of those years he managed the store on 101 Street and 102 Avenue, Edmonton. During that period he was elected to the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association and in 1964 served as its President.

Ever a "student of the game" Walt was a volunteer in Emergency Health Services when that was a new and virtually unheard of term.

After several years of serving as Health Supplies Officer, Walt was successful in securing a position with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. He was appointed Assistant-Registrar and served in that capacity from 1965 until his retirement at the end of 1984.

Walt was assigned some of the "sticky wickets" like liaison with hospital pharmacy and pharmacists, the newly born A.A.D.L. (Alberta Aids to Daily Living Program) and was liaison to the government in its many facets connected with substance abuse, and was the promoter of the triplicate prescription program to the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Alberta. So informed and involved was he that he served on the A.A.D.A.C. (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission) for six years.

A trophy is awarded annually to the pharmacy judged by inspectors to be "the best in Alberta" in a particular year. It is called the Walter L. Boddy Trophy.



Andrew "Andy" Charles Anderson.



Fred Boyle.

In recognition of his years of dedicated service, Walter was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

He has been much of the brains and the brawn in the Association Archives Committee and deserves much of the credit for stocking the Sun Drug in Fort Edmonton Park.

Always a hard worker for junior sports and other community endeavours he served as City of Edmonton President for the Association of Edmonton Community Leagues.

He was awarded the Robins Bowl of Hygeia in recognition of his community service.

Walt is married to Joan. They have five boys; Trevor, Brent, Cam, Chris and Jeff.

## **Fred Boyle**

Fred Boyle is a Calgary native who became interested in pharmacy as a protege of Harold Henker then gained experience at McGill Drug, Penley Drug, with Al Crooks and Elmer Bergh, all of that city.

After graduation in 1965, Fred was soon in business for himself and has owned and operated or been connected with several pharmacies in turn since then. He disposed of his business interests in 1989 and now assists friends at other pharmacies.

It has been said that if you want to have a project undertaken and to have it

done well, you find a person who is already busy and is doing that work well. Fellow pharmacists followed that maxim and so it was that Fred Boyle became one of those dedicated pharmacists who put so much of himself into improving the welfare of his colleagues in the profession.

This service came naturally to Fred who had always regularly attended meetings of the Calgary Pharmaceutical Society with interest. He then served on the executive of the C.P.S. for four years and became its President in 1976.

Fred was elected to the council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association and had a term of six such years. Those were years of change and restructuring, of management studies and reflection. At the end of only one year on council, Fred became Vice-President and a member of the Executive Committee under the new structure. These were also the times when the A.Ph.A. was outgrowing its premises and when Fred was President-Elect, a new building was acquired to house the Association offices. In Fred's year as President, 1981-82, long time Registrar, Donald Cameron retired and Larry Shipka was installed as the new Registrar. Fred was happy to be involved with the dedication of Cameron House.

During Fred's term as Past-President of the A.Ph.A. he was approached to accept appointment as Alberta's representative on the board of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association. When on this Board for the third year, Fred was chosen to become President-Elect and then for the term 1986-1987 Fred Boyle became President of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.

During Fred's years with C.Ph.A. there was a crucial restructuring as well. It seems that whenever Fred has become involved with pharmaceutical association affairs, he has stepped into a time of change and even crisis and surely some of the credit for the resolve of these matters can be attributed to Fred's quiet ability and management skills.

Fred returned to Alberta affairs, stayed on the long term planning committee for five years, is on the political action network, and was on the committee that chose Olly Kochan and Greg Eberhart to head up the office staff, choices of which he and the committee are proud.

The above agenda did not prevent Fred from having a deep commitment to his community. He was President-Elect of the South Calgary Community Association, a keen member and delegate of his political party, a lay reader and involved member of his church. Fred's interest in sports comes naturally having played softball, football, and hockey including a term as defenceman on the championship Pharm/Dent team at the University of Alberta.

Fred states that the profession of pharmacy has been and still is under utilized. That statement could indicate to a perceiving listener that Fred Boyle's involvement in pharmacy is far from over.

Fred Boyle is married to Gloria. The couple have two daughters, Debbie, a pharmacist, and Susie.

## Donald Merlin Cameron

Much of Donald Cameron's early story appears in the chapter on administration.

After twice refusing the appointment as Alberta's Registrar-Treasurer, Cameron accepted the appointment at the Annual Meeting in Calgary in 1957. He commenced his duties October 1, 1957 and served for twenty-five years to the day!

The Minutes of the 1958 meeting in Lethbridge record that Cameron was to be one of the delegates to the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association as long as he remained Registrar-Treasurer.

Mr. Cameron served on the Council of the C.Ph.A. or as a committee chairman for 21 years. He rose to become Western Vice-President and along the way became the first chairman of the Conference of Pharmacy Registrars of Canada (CPRC) known as the "railroad group" and the first President of the C.C.C.E.P. (Canadian Conference Continuing Education in Pharmacy).

Charter member of the P.E.B.C. (Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada), he holds certificate number 11 and twice served that body as President.

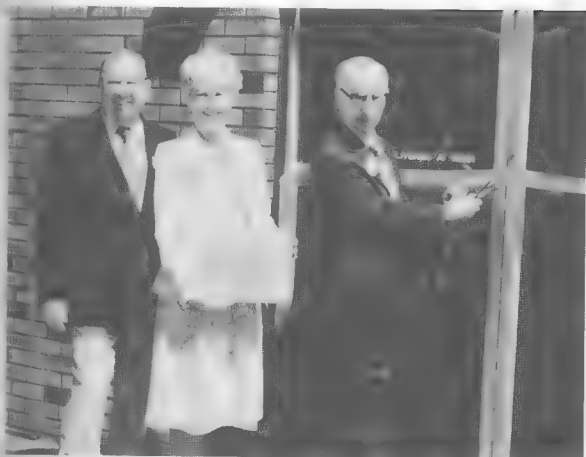
When the offices of the A.Ph.A. moved from Calgary to 9901-108 Street, Edmonton in 1962, Mr. Cameron was approached to provide lectures to pharmacy students in their graduating year on pharmacy administration and management. He commenced in 1964 and retired from this pleasant duty in 1982.

In the fall of 1977 Cameron was "roasted" by the Calgary Pharmaceutical Society with such notables as Cec Henderson, George Wyllie, Doug Denholm, Len Slipp, Dave McRitchie, "Sweet" Georgia Brown applying the torch! So far as is known, he was the only Alberta pharmacist to be so "honoured".

Upon his retirement in 1982 some 400 people from 10 Canadian provinces and several states of the union joined in a celebration of the "Don and Muriel Cameron Weekend, October 1 and 2nd, 1982".

He is one of Canada's most decorated pharmacists having earned:

- 1953 The Coronation Medal for Community Service
- 1967 The Centennial Award
- 1974 The C.Ph.A. Meritorious Service Award
- 1974 The Government of Alberta Award for Excellence in Pharmacy and Pharmacy Education
- 1977 Honourary Life Membership in C.Ph.A.
- 1981 The Robins Bowl of Hygeia Award
- 1982 Honourary Membership in the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society
- 1983 Honourary Life Membership in the A.Ph.A.



Donald M. Cameron, left, as James T. Clarke, right, cuts ribbon to open Cameron House. A.Ph.A. President, Doreen Hagen, centre.

Following his retirement, Cameron marketed the group insurance programs to pharmacists and pharmacies in Northern Alberta.

In terms of longevity, Mr. Cameron is the second most senior Past President of the A.Ph.A. having served in 1956-57.

Don is married to Muriel (Christmas Day, 1940). The Cameron's have a son Grant, and two daughters, Loree (Campbell) and Sherry Dawn (Lewis).

### James Tunstall Clarke

James T. Clarke was born in Garstang, England, a Lancashire community near Blackpool.

After public education he became articled to a Garstang chemist.

In 1923, the family emigrated to Canada and Fiske, Saskatchewan but James T. proceeded to Calgary to fend for himself.

He found a job with Wendell MacLean but bottling formaldehyde and selling "booze" was not his thing. He went to work for H.W. Chambers of Didsbury. After six months he returned to Calgary to work for J.E. Mahood.

On January 1, 1924 James T. Clarke began a 36 year career in drug stores in north Calgary where he worked for a number of owner employers.

James T. Clarke obtained an Alberta license upon graduation from the University of Alberta in 1933. He returned to north Calgary where he bought a drug store in 1935. Over the next 25 years it became among Calgary's finest. It was located on the southwest corner of 16th avenue and second street northwest.



Over the next many years Jimmy hired, trained and assisted many pharmacists. One of his employees in the coffee shop was Eileen Wilson, whom he later married. They had two sons, Donald and Kenneth.

Jimmy served his profession well. He joined the Calgary Retail Druggists Association and served as its President and was later associated with the Calgary Society. He was elected to the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association and probably served longer than anyone ever has viz: 17 years. He served two terms as President.

Jimmy served as a leader in almost every aspect that was good, about pharmacy.

A strictly "professional" pharmacist he was the second pharmacy in Calgary to receive a Laura Secord candy franchise.

James T. Clarke was an active Mason. To his credit he established the annual "Pharmacy Night in Jubilee Lodge in 1956. The chairs are all occupied by pharmacists or those related to pharmacy. In 1992 it was to celebrate its 37th anniversary.

In 1960 the Clarke's sold the drug store and moved to B.C. where Jimmy continued his pharmacy career with the Narcotic Addiction Foundation, and relieving in retail. They moved to Langley and subsequently to Kelowna. Jimmy Clarke passed away in 1991.

The Clarkes are fondly remembered by a host of friends in Calgary and throughout Alberta and B.C.

### **Col. F.A. Stewart-Dunn**

Students of pharmacy and medicine at the University of Alberta from 1922 to 1942, were well acquainted with the professor who headed up the School of Pharmacy. Frank Ambrose Stewart-Dunn arrived at the University, it is believed, due to his previous association with President Dr. Tory at the "Khaki University" which helped overseas war veterans catch up on their education, near and after the end of World War I.

It has been reported that his only pharmacy training was his apprenticeship in England plus practical experience, which was recognised by the Ontario College of Pharmacy. In Canada, Dunn became a dispenser with the James Findlay Drug Co. of Calgary circa 1912 to 1914. He enlisted upon the outbreak of war. After 1918 he operated a pharmaceutical laboratory in Edmonton from which he made, among other products, a line of cosmetics.

His years at the university began when Professor H.H. Gaetz died in 1922 and Dunn took his place. During that time he was very active with and became commanding officer of the Canadian Officers Training Corps at the university.



On the 25th Anniversary of the School of Pharmacy, I wish to say to my twenty-third and last class of students at the University of Alberta that I have enjoyed knowing you, and my recollections of this class will always be very happy ones. I trust that your futures will be pleasant and successful, at any rate, after the war is over. In the meantime, knowing you as I do, I am confident that many of you will join some branch of His Majesty's Forces, as soon as possible, whether you are Freshmen, Juniors, or Graduating Students. The world is facing the worst crisis in its history at present, and you must do your bit to help win this war or there will be no future for any of you. This may not be a cheerful farewell message, but I appreciate the seriousness of the situation and feel it is my duty to pass it on to you.

Good-bye and Good Luck,

Yours very sincerely,

F. A. STEWART DUNN, Lieut.-Colonel.

Director of the School of Pharmacy

His background for this task was ideal as he had served with a Canadian Field Ambulance becoming a Sergeant-Major, became a Lieutenant with the 10th Infantry Battalion during the 1914-1918 conflict, had seen much action and had been seriously wounded in 1917 at the Hill 70 action near Loos. While in convalescence in England he became Captain then Adjutant of the Khaki University. In his post war military career with C.O.T.C., he rose to Major then to Lt. Colonel. Some suggested that any young male pharmacy student who volunteered for C.O.T.C. might be looked on more favourably in his academic pursuits and exams.

It has also been suggested that Col. Dunn enjoyed a drink now and again and that the alcohol which went missing from the pharmacy laboratory was not always the result of student shenanigans and ingenuity. At exam times, his students did quite well, perhaps aided by the Colonel's advice to pay particular study attention to certain pages of the *Materia Medica* and Latin texts.

In 1942 Col. Stewart-Dunn left the School of Pharmacy. In an emotional farewell address to his students, he stated that his so-called retirement was really a form of dismissal. Although many pharmacy students had a fondness for their professor and were sympathetic to him at the time, they had to agree that his successors elevated the quality of courses and the prestige of the School and led the way to the formation of the Faculty of Pharmacy, one of the finest anywhere.

## **Robert James Edgar**

Robert J. "Bob" Edgar was born at Innisfail, August 3, 1930.

He received his early education in Little Red Deer and Red Deer Composite High Schools. He served his apprenticeship with Gaetz-Cornett Drug and Book Co. in Red Deer.

Bob attended the University of Alberta and graduated with the Degree of B.Sc. Pharmacy in 1955.

From 1973-75 he attended the University of Alberta for a Masters of Business Administration program, and from 1975 to the present has attended numerous management and leadership courses and conferences.

In his undergraduate years Bob held many offices and in 1954-55 was President of the Student's Union, the only pharmacist to have held that position. He received a number of awards.

Since graduation he has served on the Senate and the Board of Governors of the University. In addition he was President of the University of Alberta Alumni Association.

Early in his business career Bob worked for Noel Farrow in Calgary. He purchased Wellman Pharmacy in Westlock which he operated for several years before selling to Bob MacKenzie. While in Westlock he was President of the Chamber of Commerce and the Kinsman Club.

Nor were his pharmaceutical responsibilities neglected. He served as President of both the Alberta and Canadian Pharmaceutical Associations.

Bob Edgar has a long and distinguished career in contributions to organizations having to do with students with learning disabilities.

He has, as you would expect of a busy leader, headed up numerous fund-raising activities not the least of which was the Manie S. Simpson Memorial Fund for the University Alumni Association.

Bob Edgar, ever the man on the move, has headed up numerous government Boards and Committees and serves as Assistant to the Deputy Minister, Corporate and Consumer Affairs for the Province of Alberta.

Bob is married to Eleanor and they have one son, Donald.

## **Harry Austin "Duke" Ferguson**

Many pharmacists practise quietly and professionally in their community and by their example, their fellow citizens form a very favourable opinion of pharmacy as a profession. There are many such men and women in Alberta. They may not take office but serve in a different way and they can be excellent ambassadors for our profession.



Robert James Edgar.



Harry Austin "Duke" Ferguson.

The lad that was born in Nanton in 1912 was christened Harry Austin Ferguson but during his adult life he has always been called "Duke". There is hardly any Alberta pharmacist among his contemporaries who did not know Duke and he has been a popular friend to all.

His pharmacy career has been spent almost entirely in towns of Southern Alberta and he worked for "some of the finest men who ever lived", citing in particular, Errett King (Vulcan), Bill Marshall (High River), Oliver Vickerson and Neil McDermid (Lacombe), Charles Cummer (Edmonton) and Otto Reineke (Claresholm). He was almost lost to Alberta pharmacy when Justin Dart, President of the Rexall Co. in the U.S.A., asked him to consider a career with that company, but Claresholm appealed to Duke more than Los Angeles.

Duke Ferguson has always been a keen and skilled sportsman, excelling in hockey and baseball. He played hockey with the University of Alberta Golden Bears then with the High River Flyers in an Alberta league. That is where the nick-name Duke was coined, due to his skating style which resembled that of the famous Duke Keats of Edmonton. In baseball, he was so good that he was offered a professional career in the U.S.A. but, once again, Alberta and pharmacy won over California.

In Claresholm, Duke has been a tireless community worker and a list of his service and accomplishments would be too lengthy to mention here.

Suffice it to say that he was the first recipient of the Claresholm Citizen of the Year Award.

Duke's eyesight has deteriorated to the point where he is considered officially blind. With his limited sight this octogenarian still skates over one hour each day, golfs and enjoys (as do his partners) ballroom dancing and brisk walks.

Quite a royal type of guy, this Duke.

### **Richard "Dick" Geleta**

Richard Martin Geleta was born at New Kiev, Alberta, November 14, 1915. He obtained Junior High School at Two Hills and was fortunate to attend Victoria High in Edmonton for grades eleven and twelve.

His school years were difficult at times. There was little and often there was no money for books or board and room. With family help he obtained his pharmacy diploma in 1940.

In the fall of 1940 the Panko Fedorchuk Drug became available in Two Hills. Dick's brother-in-law persuaded the parents to purchase the stock and Dick set up business in Harrison's garage. He put up a sign "DRUGS" and for a year lived with the Harrison family.

In 1941 the family scraped together \$400 to build a building with living quarters behind. Dick was on his way!

He organized a dance band and supplemented his income playing the viola and saxophone. He had a telephone exchange located in his store for which rent was paid.

In 1942 Dick was elected Mayor of Two Hills. He retained the title for 35 years!

In all those years Dick filled nearly every leading community endeavour as chairman. The list is endless.

In 1967 he received the Centennial Award.

In 1974 he received the A.H. Robins Bowl of Hygeia. The announcement was kept secret as it was feared the town of Two Hills could not spare him for a day to go to Red Deer to receive the award.

In 1946 Dick married Lena who became his wife, helpmate and partner in turning the wheel for life in Two Hills.

The couple had two daughters and a son. All are university graduates.

When friends asked Dick what he wanted to do in retirement his answer was always the same: "I will serve the people of my community until I die".

Easy going, dedicated Dick Geleta died December 31, 1979 at the age of 64 years.

As a mark of respect the community dedicated its baseball park as the



Richard "Dick" Galeta.

#### "D.M. Geleta Recreation Park".

Dick Geleta is missed and remembered by his family, his community and a circle of friends and admirers from the Head of the Lakes to the Blue Pacific.

### Victor E. Hessell

Victor Emmanuel Hessell registered with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association in 1914. He operated his own drug store in Blackie Alberta from at least 1916 until 1919. A move was made to nearby Okotoks where he successfully ran V.E. Hessell Drug until 1943. His energy and community commitment which became so apparent in later years was evident in Okotoks where he served on Council, two terms as Mayor, 1922 then again in 1942-43. He was also an unsuccessful candidate in the provincial election of 1935.

Pharmacists of Alberta soon knew him much better when he became the President of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association 1935-36, then Registrar-Treasurer for the A.Ph.A. in 1940, at which time he sold his pharmacy. He erected a small building behind the drug store from which he performed his duties and this may have been the first instance of an Alberta Registrar not doing this work at his own pharmacy office desk. Soon after becoming Registrar, Mr. Hessell spoke to the combined classes of pharmacy students at

the University of Alberta and emphasised the satisfaction that a pharmacist could experience as a professional in a small town saying it might be better to be "a big frog in a small pond rather than a small frog in a big lake".

Mr. Hessell then proceeded contrary to his advice and in 1943 moved to Toronto where he became the Executive Director of the Board of Commercial Interests for the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association and also was a monthly contributor to the C.Ph.A. Journal with his column "V.E. Hessell Reports". He retired after a long and active career in pharmacy and public life. Sadly, Vic Hessell was killed in an automobile accident in 1986 at the age of 79 years. (photo: see section on Presidents of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association)

## Mervyn James Huston

Mervyn James Huston was born September 4, 1912 at Ashcroft, B.C..

What career would you care to have comments upon? Pharmacist? Dean? Author? Playwrite? Professional Musician? Golfer? Acey-deucey Expert? He excells in all of these.

This is about pharmacy, right? Merv Huston is a member of a remarkable pharmacy family. His father was an O.C.P. graduate. His brother is a pharmacist who has a pharmacist son. His sister's son is a pharmacist married to a pharmacist.

Dr. Huston (as he is now almost universally known) received his early education in Ashcroft and Kamloops. B.C., having no pharmacy school at that time saw him move to the University of Alberta where he received a B.Sc. in pharmacy in 1934. After one year of playing in a dance band he returned to Alberta to study biochemistry under Dr. Max Cantor. While working toward an M.Sc. he lectured in pharmacy and continued to profit from his band activities.

In 1944 having secured his masters degree he proceeded to the University of Washington where after eighteen months he obtained his Ph.D.

He joined the staff at the School of Pharmacy. He succeeded Dr. A.W. Matthews who left in January, 1946 to join the Rexall Company. He appointed two fellows named Randy Murray and Bernie Riedel to his staff. He assisted each to secure his M.Sc. degree. Both left to become a Dean of Pharmacy, Murray at Manitoba and Riedel at U.B.C. Dr. M.J. Huston became Dean of the Faculty in 1955 and retained that appointment until 1978!

The dance band being plebeian he turned his talents to the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. M.J. Huston has written six books, the most famous (?) being "The Great Canadian Lover", which some claim is an autobiography. He says, "Its an

understandable mistake”.

His play, “The Grey Cup Murder Trial”, was produced and presented on the C.B.C..

Not only did he edit “Great Golf Humour” but he wrote, “Golf and Murphy’s Law” and proves his right among the immortals by playing with such luminaries as Ralph Maybank and Don Cameron at the Red Deer Pharmacist’s Open.

Mervyn J. Huston has written countless professional books and articles.

Mervyn J. Huston was awarded the Stephen Leacock Memorial Award for Humour. The list of firsts and awards is endless.

Five card stud and Jacks to Open was a maxim at such exotic places as Ashcroft and Barkerville, B.C. The game is now refined, it is acey-deucey; two card stud; one down, one up; change once up or down; pair of aces your best high; 2-3 your best low; declare high or low starting left of the dealer.

Mervyn J. Huston has been President of:

The Canadian Pharmaceutical Association;

The Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy;

The Edmonton Kiwanis Club.

He has won the Alberta Achievement Award. He is an Honourary Life member of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association; the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association; the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association.

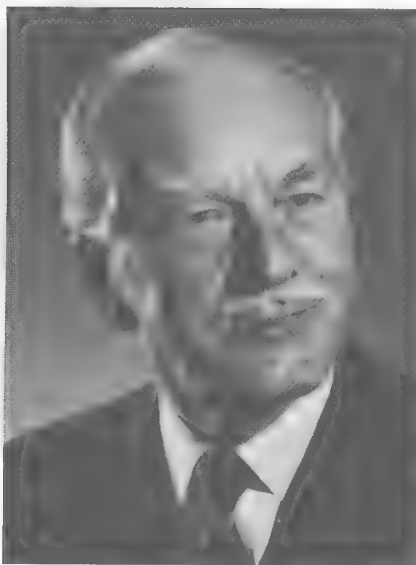
Merv was married to Helen (deceased). The couple had a son Brian and a daughter, Dorna.

## Edward J. Kadlec

Many pharmacists, and others in pharmacy related activities, will well remember Ed Kadlec. He was a retailer, chain store manager, commercial traveller, warehouse manager, chain store vice-president and wholesale general manager in a career that kept him busy in pharmacy for 50 years until he retired in 1968. This career started with his apprenticeship with Humphrey Higgs in Wetaskiwin, the usual experiences at University of Alberta, manager of Liggett’s store in Calgary, on the “road” for Rexall Drug Co., managed the Rexall warehouse, became Rexall General Sales Manager, Vice-President of the company in Toronto, then back to Alberta once more as General Manager of Northwest Drug Wholesale. He is presently retired and living at the west coast.

Ed will be well remembered by many as an active worker for conventions and social affairs for pharmacists. His unique act as an entertainer was to





Mervyn James Huston.



Edward J. Kadlec

present a monologue using a Chinese accent. He played hockey for the Pharmacy/Medical/Dental team at the University and for the Liggett team in the druggist's commercial league in Calgary. His many pranks at Liggetts and elsewhere showed his love for fun could be mixed with efficient management skills.

Men like Ed Kadlec will leave a pleasant memory with fellow pharmacists.

### **Clifford E. Lee**

Clifford E. Lee (preferring to be known as Cliff) was born on a farm in the area of Edmonton now known as the Hardisty district.

Cliff attended Camrose Normal School and was a school teacher for several years. Located in Tofield, Cliff aspired for a career for himself in pharmacy and served an apprenticeship in pharmacy with a Dr. MacPherson in the town of Ryley.

Cliff entered the School of Pharmacy in Edmonton and received a diploma in pharmacy in 1934.

The owners of the dispensary in the Tegler Building in Edmonton were searching for a bright young pharmacist to "take over". Word of the search

reached the ears of Whit Matthews (whose story appears elsewhere). Whit suggested the name of Cliff Lee and Cliff Lee and Dispensaries Ltd. were united in 1934.

Cliff had met and been captivated by a young lady, by the name of Lila McAdam, when the Chautauqua visited Tofield. Chautauqua? Is that a name out of history or conjured up by the editor? You are invited to refer to your dictionary.

Cliff and Lila were married in June of 1934. With Lila's help, Cliff managed the Tegler Building dispensary into the late 1940's.

Having been exposed to politics by the Tuxis Boys Parliament Cliff retained his keen interest in politics. A line from the Edmonton Journal of Sunday, April 17, 1988 says, "Lee was an anomaly – a strong supporter of the NDP (twice losing as a party candidate in federal and provincial elections) and a successful businessman."

As Dispensaries Ltd. continued to thrive, Cliff Lee turned his active mind to other business interests. He predicted that when World War II was over there would be a great demand for housing. There was. With selected friends he began a small construction company which led into Nu-West Homes and made Cliff Lee a millionaire.

Always the humanitarian, he turned much of his wealth into the Clifford E. Lee Foundation, started in 1969. He died in 1972 before he realized the success of the Foundation, carried on by Lila Lee and their children.

The Foundation has assisted many worthy causes including the providing of the first home in Edmonton for battered wives and children.

Clifford E. Lee is gone but not forgotten.

## **Stanley Allan Lissack**

Stanley Allan Lissack received his early education in Galahad, Alberta.

Stan served his apprenticeship in the Calgary General Hospital with Iva Rupp as his mentor.

He graduated with a B.Sc. from the University of Alberta in 1958. Two days after convocation he married a pharmacist classmate, Sherry Elaine Djuve.

The Lissacks proceeded to Saskatoon. Stan had been awarded a Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy Fellowship. He began pharmacy residency under Jack Summers at University Hospital. Sherry brought home the bacon by serving in Pinder's main dispensary.

In 1959 the Lissacks returned to Calgary and Stan to the Calgary General Hospital for three years. Following this stint he managed Dunford Drug in the Greyhound Building for three years.



Clifford E. Lee.



Stanley and Sherry Lissack.

The next stop was as Director of Pharmacy at the Lethbridge Municipal Hospital. Following two years in Lethbridge the Lissacks purchased the drug store in Daysland from Keith and Evelyn Elliott. They named it S & S Pharmacy.

Despite a busy life Stan and Sherry entered into the turbulent political life of a small town. Stan Lissack served on the town Council for nine years, the last six of which were as Mayor.

Stan was elected to the Council of the A.Ph.A. for four years serving that organization as President in 1978-79. He was involved in Canadian Pharmacy affairs and was elected President of C.Ph.A.

The store was sold in 1978 and the family remained in Daysland and Pigeon Lake for three years. Being a "bear for punishment" Stan became Registrar of the Saskatchewan Pharmaceutical Association. He continued his considerable involvement with C.Ph.A.

June of 1985 saw a short-lived sabbatical and Stan joined the Astra Pharmaceutical House in Mississauga, Ontario. In 1989 he became Vice-President of Corporate and Government Affairs. Coincidentally he became Chairman of Governmental Affairs for (P.M.A.C.) the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association of Canada and a Chairman of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy. He is back in C.Ph.A. as Chairman of the Canadian Industrial Pharmacists Section.

Living proof of the old adage "If you have something important to do give the job to a busy man".

Stan and Sherry Lissack have made friends from Atlantic to Pacific and beyond. They have three children; a son Kent, a daughter Marcia and a son Mitchell.

## **Ronald Byron MacLean**

Ronald B. MacLean is, was, and will always be a Calgarian.

After graduation the lure of the "road", a new car and an expense account seemed the answer to a young male pharmacist's dream!

It was – and it wasn't!

Ronald B. MacLean needs to be around people who need help; who know a good guy when they see one and who are content to keep their tongue in their cheek when they know they have locked horns with a "sharpie".

After leaving the road Ron joined the firm of Penley Drug Ltd., and settled down to managing the Killarney store of that small empire.

Ronald B. MacLean perhaps more than any (?) other pharmacist has a rapport with his patients that is (a) exceptional; (b) bizarre (c) different and (d) "how the hell did he get away with that?"

In his years with the Penley Drug Co., Ron was exemplary in his professional conduct and progress but obstinate in his bid to get ahead.

So finally, at Ken and Prue's urging, Ronald B. bought the store! Ever a faithful attender and promoter of pharmacy endeavours, Ron held all or most of the offices in the Calgary Retail Druggists Association and the Society. He served as President of both.

Elected to Council of the A.Ph.A. Ronald B. MacLean served as President for 2 terms, 1971 to 1973, and was front and centre in the establishment of the pharmacy technician course at the Red Deer College.

Ron MacLean is entertaining, resourceful and funny!

A few people had had colostomy and ileostomy surgery. They didn't talk much because it isn't a cocktail hour subject. But increasingly they searched for a centre for service. Ron MacLean sympathetic to their needs promised "to do what he could". True to his word he did.

He began to assemble the basic needs for colostomy and ileostomy patients. Because it was new and unknown people began to say "Go and see Ron MacLean."

Not overnight, but slowly, patients began to seek out his pharmacy. Sympathetically and realistically he began to attract patients from all over Alberta.

It takes a special kind of pharmacist to stand behind the counter and say "Yes! I can help."



Ronald and Darlene MacLean.

He did and he does and the rest, as they say, is history.

Ronald B. MacLean is a special kind of guy.

Ron is married to Darlene a Saskatchewan pharmacist. When the Saskatchewan Roughriders come to town – they don't sit together.

### **Walter William Maday**

Walter Maday was born in Edmonton, November 28, 1919.

He received his early education at Alex Taylor and St. Joseph's High School.

Walter served his internship with M. "Jake" Warner and the affection he has for the man and his methods leaves you "misty-eyed".

Walter Maday graduated with a B.Sc. in Pharmacy in 1943. He has never stopped studying and improving himself and learning a "better way" in which pharmacy could be practised.

For these and other concerns Walter Maday has been much honoured. He; was President of and holds Honourary Life Membership in the A.Ph.A.; earned the Certificate of Merit from the C.Ph.A.; holds Honourary Life Membership in the C.S.H.P.; and is a fellow of the C.S.H.P.; and assisted in



Walter Maday receives Honorary Life Membership from Doreen Zinyk. Mrs. Emily Maday at right.

preparing and presenting briefs to both the Royal Commission on Health Services and the Restrictive Practises Commission during his term as President of the A.Ph.A.

Although its been fun, loaded with work, Walter was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Summer Village of Argentia Beach. A book on that very subject has recently been published. Who did that work? W.W. Maday.

Walter's innovations in the practise of hospital pharmacy are so numerous and important that space does not permit the reproduction.

Walter W. Maday is listed among the giants in advances made in hospital pharmacy practise. He was President of the Alberta Branch of the C.S.H.P. and Secretary of the C.S.H.P.

To demonstrate that he was not without skill and acumen in the private enterprise field, he joined M.J. Warner as a partner in Armstrong Drug and later, opened and operated Omega Drugs Ltd., simultaneously directing the pharmacy at the University of Alberta Hospital.

Walter Maday is a soft spoken, dedicated pharmacist in love with his profession.

Walter is married to Emily. The couple has two daughters, Maureen and Lorraine. A devoted husband, father, neighbour and friend.



Don and Margaret McKeague with daughters Helen and Donna, 1987.

### Donald F. McKeague

Donald Foster McKeague was born 1916 in High River and received his schooling there. A career in pharmacy beckoned and his application for an apprenticeship position was accepted by Mr. Matt Maybank in Olds who advised him to "bring a pair of coveralls". The training was thorough and the pay very good for the times being \$45.00 for a month of 50 hour weeks. Don helped to work his way through the University of Alberta by, among other things, being an agent for a florist.

After graduation in 1940, Don worked for others in Sylvan Lake and Ponoka then accepted a position with Dunford Drug in Calgary. This was a professional pharmacy and Don found that this was the type of pharmacy he wanted to practise. He was later invited to buy into the business and much sooner than he had expected, Don found himself the owner in 1949.

Expansion with a second store was made into a medical building in 1960 and McKeague's Academy Pharmacy was successfully launched. By 1963, Don and his wife Margaret bought a Surgical Appliance business and an entirely new field of endeavour opened up involving daily hospital calls. A new dispensary was added to the drug department of the Hudson Bay Co. in Calgary in 1965 and Don was asked to operate it.

This kind of work load would have daunted many but Don McKeague had a credo that one should become involved with his profession and put something back into it. Thus he became secretary of the Calgary and District Retail Druggists Association and then its President. He was elected to the Council of

the A.Ph.A. and thus began a 14 year series of such terms. His peers installed him as President of the A.Ph.A. in 1958-59 then did so again in 1964-65. Don also spent four years as a Councillor on the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association, became its Vice-President and its President in 1960-61. One may recall that his was the same time period when he was starting a second pharmacy in Calgary. It was also a hectic time in national pharmacy affairs because at this time the Quebec Pharmaceutical Association decided to withdraw from the Canadian Association. Don made many trips to Quebec to persuade pharmacists there to remain with C.Ph.A. but was unsuccessful. Don McKeague may be the only Albertan who has served two terms as President of the A.Ph.A. and one term as President of C.Ph.A. Where did he find the time?

Don's dedication to and love for his profession was balanced by an active social life as well. As a youthful musician, he won the trombone section of the Kiwanis Musical Festival and also the Alberta Amateur and Alberta Open Competitions. This talent was carried on to his adult life when he played with the Musical Medics dance orchestra (later the Hippocratic Oath) composed largely of medical personnel. An active Mason, Don became Master of his lodge, joined the Scottish Rite and the Shrine. He was a member of the Session at his church. Don loved cars of any type but particularly restored vintage cars. He owned one such and spent many happy hours, with Margaret navigating, rallying over Alberta roads. The McKeague's, including their children, have been active community workers at Bragg Creek where they chose to reside.

Don once said "Pharmacy has been good to me". We might conclude by saying "Don McKeague was good for pharmacy!"

### **Arnold Whitney (Whit) Matthews Ph.D**

Arnold Whitney "Whit" Matthews came from Prince Edward Island to Daysland, Alberta at an early age. His first exposure to pharmacy came in his home town where Heber J. Burrows started the first store May 21, 1907.

Whit Matthews actually served his apprenticeship with J. H. Lines Red Cross Drug on 102 Street and Jasper Avenue in Edmonton.

He entered the School of Pharmacy in 1918 in the degree program and graduated in 1921 in the first degree program of graduation in the British Empire.

Whit loaned his talents to Revillon Freres Wholesale in Edmonton (102 Avenue and 104 Street) which later sold to Alberta National Drug.

Not yet 21 years of age (required for registration with the A.Ph.A.) Whit agreed to join the manufacturing laboratory of F.A. Stewart-Dunn. He turned over his Revillon chores to Harry Martin who eventually practised in Grimshaw, mile "0" on the MacKenzie Highway.

Whit Matthews "took over" the school in 1942.





Arnold Whitney "Whit" Matthews, PhD.



Charles Joseph Meagher.

In January, 1946 Whit Matthews left the School to join the Rexall Drug Co. which he served and left to join Riker Laboratories as President.

With heart and soul ever in education he was appointed Dean of U.B.C. in 1952 and stayed for fifteen years.

After retiring in 1967 he served the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada as Registrar-Treasurer and then as Secretary of Examinations.

Along the way this leader became:

President of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association (the first academic (?) to so serve); President of the Canadian Foundation for Pharmacy; Chairman of the Canadian Conference of Pharmacy; Secretary-Treasurer, Association of Deans of Faculties of Canada; and Member and Secretary of the Commission on Pharmaceutical Services.

Is that all?

Oh My No!

A sportsman all of his life Whit served with the Canadian Rugby-Football Union. He also served with the Royal Canadian Golf Society, and was an expert golfer himself.

Whit was married to Adah. They had one son, Stewart. Whit died September 24, 1992 at the age of 90.

## Charles Joseph Meagher

Charles "Chuck" Meagher was born June 22, 1931 at Delisle, Saskatchewan. He received his High School education at the Nutana Collegiate Institute.

Charles Meagher received his B.Sc. in Pharmacy at the University of Saskatchewan. He received a Hospital Pharmacy Residency Certificate from the University Hospital in Saskatoon.

Following three years as an Assistant Director of Pharmacy at the University Hospital in Saskatoon, he relocated to Medicine Hat General Hospital where he served as Director of Pharmacy for twenty-two years. In addition to his pharmacy duties he had responsibilities in administration and sole responsibility for Management Engineering.

Following his full-time pharmacy career he was appointed President of Medicine Hat College for the period of 1979-89. He is now retired.

During his busy life he was heavily engaged in the "business" of pharmacy and served in the following capacities:

- 1961 President, Alberta Branch Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists
- 1962 President, C.S.H.P.
- 1964 Board Member, Pharmacy Examining Board
- 1965-67 Council Member, Alberta Pharmaceutical Association
- 1971 Canadian Delegate – Federation International Pharmaceutical
- 1972 President, Canadian Pharmaceutical Association
- 1966 Mayor of Medicine Hat – Awarded Centennial Medal
- 1967 Director – Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
- 1967 Director – Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities

Chuck was (and is) continually involved in politics. A strong supporter of the Progressive Conservative Party, he ran twice in the Federal Election.

Ever a fund raiser for a good cause, his list of accomplishments is a lengthy one. While Pharmacy Director at Medicine Hat General, Charles was a member of the Faculty of Nursing where he taught pharmacology.

Ever cognisant of the education for youth and beyond he was President of the Home and School Association of Webster Niblock School.

A builder? Yes! A contributor? Yes! A Worker? Always.

Charles J. Meagher is married to Iolene. The couple has four children; Charles, Kevin, Colleen and Shawn.

## Gerald C. Shapter

Many pharmacists and others served our profession by being a medical detail representative and commercial salesman for pharmaceutical manufacturers. One example of these many fine men was Gerald C. Shapter.

Gerald C. Shapter is truly an unforgettable character to anyone in pharmacy who ever met him. For most of his career this pharmacist was a representative for the Charles E. Frosst Co. covering mainly Southern Alberta. His long, quick, purposeful strides were a trademark when he entered one's pharmacy. A quick greeting, a funny story, then he got to work. No time was wasted. Before leaving, Gerry would always take time to speak to an apprentice or aspiring delivery boy, perhaps explain what he was detailing at that period or speak a few words of encouragement relating to a pharmacy career.

Gerry was also a retail pharmacist, before and after his travelling days. The town of Granum may never have had a dynamo like Gerry before or since. Later in Calgary, a long list of former apprentices, now pharmacists, recall him at his Temple-Duff Drug with fondness; always teaching, always explaining, always interested. This desire to teach opened another career as, once more with Frosst, he held sales seminars in Alberta for graduates and staff of retail pharmacies.

An active citizen, Gerry Shapter took part in many other fields. During the 1939-1945 war he became very involved with the Calgary Highlanders Militia, rising to Captain and training companies in Calgary, Okotoks and Blackie. On the Board of Directors at Calgary's Heritage Park, he was instrumental in obtaining, and, with others, stocking the old Drug Store there. He took the part of Santa Claus every Christmas morning for years, visiting underprivileged Children's Homes aboard a red fire-engine complete with wailing siren. He left the drug business for a while and did very well selling heavy machinery. As a gifted string and keyboard musician, Gerry played for Stampede events, pharmacy entertainments, and had his own dance orchestra. For pharmacists he often played and sang the old Gin Pill Song: "I Get the Blues When It Drains".

Gerry was a talented cartoonist and in later life an accomplished artist. His annual Christmas cards, featuring a sketch of himself and his prominent nose, were welcomed by all his clients and have become collector's items. Gerry held successful shows of his oil paintings after retirement.

Teacher, soldier, artist, musician, story teller, salesman, friend and above all... pharmacist, this fine man will be remembered by those in pharmacy who ever had the pleasure of knowing him.



Gerald C. Shapter.



Walter H. Sprague.

### Walter H. Sprague

His contributions to pharmacy have largely been chronicled in the history of pharmacy in Edmonton.

His contributions to his community can best be told by excerpts from an article "borrowed" from the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association Journal, written by Robert C. MacKenzie and called "Walter H. Sprague – Edmonton VIP."

His office looks like Gretzky's trophy room. Against one wall a hutch holds trophies and memorabilia of his winning thoroughbred horses. Fastened to other walls are plaques honouring the man who revitalized the Edmonton Eskimos football team in the 1950's. Prominently displayed is the scroll he received when inducted into Edmonton's Sports Hall of Fame.

But this man is more than a sports enthusiast. He is a successful pharmacist and entrepreneur, and board chairman of Sprague Drug Limited, a chain of 18 pharmacies in Edmonton and Calgary.

Walter Sprague opened his first pharmacy in 1932 – a dispensary on the sixth floor of the McLeod building in downtown Edmonton. From this beginning grew the Sprague Drug chain now owned by his son, Don.

Through the past five decades, Mr. Sprague made a success of himself, made many contributions to Edmonton's sport scene, and helped numerous young pharmacists learn the ins and outs of retail pharmacy.

"I guess it was 1945," said Mr. Sprague, "when I complained to the provincial pharmacy association that there was no bridge between pharmacy, as it was being taught to students at the University of Alberta, and the real world of retail pharmacy. So that's when Dr. Matthews, the head of the pharmacy department, invited me to teach a course on practical pharmacy. I ended up doing it for about six years and I guess it's still being done in a way. I explained merchandising, bookkeeping, how to deal with customers, how to hire and fire employees, and how to advertise. I even showed them how to wrap parcels!"

Those were busy times in Edmonton. The Alaska Highway was being built, and major construction firms brought in hundreds of workers; Sprague Drugs was contracted to provide pharmaceutical services to these newcomers. Sprague Drugs began to grow.

"It got so I was adding a new store every two or three years," said Mr. Sprague. "By the time I had seven stores, I began to realize there were other things in life besides work. Being a gregarious fellow, I started to join all sorts of clubs – the Edmonton Club, Kiwanis, Chamber of Commerce. At one time or another I ended up as president of every one of them."

In 1982, Mr. Sprague was inducted into Edmonton's Sports Hall of Fame "in recognition of his 33 years of contribution to thoroughbred racing and football."

"Promoting sports and participating in community affairs takes up a lot of time," said Mr. Sprague, "but my son, Don, was there to take over most of the day-to-day operation of the company." Grandson Bob Sprague, is a pharmacist practising in Calgary and has served as President of the A.Ph.A.

Today, the Sprague Drug chain employs 75 people in Calgary and Edmonton. Walter Sprague and his son Don, are proud they have been able to turn down numerous offers to buy them out.

## **Ferdinand George McAdam**

This chapter has been dealing with pharmacists who "left their mark" but it would not be complete without the story of a non-pharmacist who "made his mark".

Ferdinand George McAdam, born in Ottawa, joined the R.C.M.P. – ended his working career with the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association. The (maybe) first ever undercover drug squad (one man) gang that started it all.

You've heard of Mrs. Malaprop? Meet Mac McAdam, Master of the Mixed Metaphor.

There follows a list, (compiled by Walter Boddy) which was read at Mac's farewell party.

–Poor meal at Thorsby:

Mac: That mock turtle was terrible!

W.B.: Don't you mean "Mock Duck"?

Mac: Turtle – Duck – What's the difference?

–In regard to early pharmacy inspections:

Needless to say, and to coin a phrase, I was about as popular as a skunk at a garden party.

–In a case like that a man has to keep an eye to the ground

–It's not what I do, it's do as I say.

–You can't make fish of one and pie of another.

–I'd talk to him in no uncertain terms.

–I'd really show him where the bear sat down in the barley.

–He put the horse before the cart.

–He should be put in the button house. ("button house" was his term for a mental hospital)

–He didn't have two biscuits to rub together or a window to throw them out of.

–He is skating on pretty thin ground.

–Regarding roads to a certain place: "You can get there pretty well by car".

–Regarding an older person due for retirement: "Someone will be sneaking up on you with a net".

–Thin person: "Skinny as a match with the wood shaved off".

–About something best forgotten: "Least said, easiest mended".

–An old lady showed up at a social function after losing her husband:

"There she was, twice as large and twice as nasty".

–Re: ugly woman: "She has a face on her like a horse collar".

–Eye glasses needed changing: "His eyeglasses had a contortion in them".

–Re: woman from India: "Who's that wearing the SAFARI?"

–Re: angry woman prisoner: "She crawled over me like a fly over a rainspout".

–If a man made a pass at his wife: "I'd hit him so hard he would think the cost of living had dropped".

–Re: a man’s inefficiency: “He couldn’t wrap it in a paper bag if it was fourteen miles wide”.

–A pill a day keeps the stork away.

–Describing an effeminate man: “He sits down to crochet”.

Finally, Mac had a habit of macerating people’s names.

In the “old days” you could buy a funeral wreath for \$3. One was sent to a deceased. The Association used Amby Lenon Florist. He was forever labelled by Mac as Andy Lemon.

The Association had a member named Bjorge (pronounced Bee-Organie). To Mac he was forever Buh-George!

We laugh now; we cried then. Ferdinand George McAdam, R.I.P..

*Editor’s note: see F. G. McAdam photo on page 33.*

## Awards

by Terry Kassian

Until and including 1943, the only scholastic awards to which a pharmacy student at the University of Alberta could aspire were two:

- 1) The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Gold Medal, awarded for the most outstanding student in the graduation class and which was accompanied by a first year membership in the Association.
- 2) A monetary award to one student of outstanding merit in one or more of the non graduating classes. This award, which had various titles and dollar amounts, was applied to defray the tuition fee for the following year.

Until the Licentiate course was discontinued, there were two gold medals awarded each year, one to the top student in the Licentiate course and one to the top student in the Degree course.

From 1944 until the present, several other awards and scholarships have been made available to deserving students. Many of these have been donated by societies, auxiliaries, retail, wholesale and manufacturing firms and by endowment trusts. The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association has also enlarged its sphere of awards.



The following lists pertain only to those awards which have been donated by the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

### The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Gold Medal

Licentiate Course	Degree Course
1922 F. Oliver Vickerson	1922 Not awarded
1923 Charles C. Colpman	1923 Amy E. Garbutt
1924 C. Walter Bamforth	1924 Guy F. Hollingshead
1925 William J. Monaghan	1925 Annie M. Goodhall
1926 Clarence E. Gerhart	1926 Not awarded
1927 Thomas Millward	1927 William D. Goldberg
1928 Aloysius Kluck	1928 Evelyn L. Shlain
1929 Joseph P. Korczynski	1929 Not awarded
1930 John A. Avery	1930 Not awarded
1931 Arthur W. Griswold	1931 Not awarded
Arthur Lambert	
1932 Herbert C. Anderson	1932 Not awarded
1933 Ethel V. Car	1933 Not awarded
1934 William Campbell	1934 Louis Rudolph
Harold H. Henker	
1935 Patrick H. Woodruff	1935 Edward Nielsen
1936 Not awarded	1936 Phyllis M. Brewster
1937 Alston Nyal Fletcher	1937 William R. McCalla
1938 Hilda K. Moore	1938 Cecil Johnson
1939 Not awarded	1939 Hilda K. Moore
1940 Howard W. Pickup	1940 Not awarded
1941 Richard H. Appleyard	1941 Not awarded
1942 Stanley I. Niddrie	1942 Richard H. Appleyard
1943 J. Kenneth Penley	1943 Bernard E. Riedel
1944 Mary A. Wholey	1944 Not awarded
1945 Gordon A. Groves	1945 Mary A. Wholey
1946 Jean H. Nettleton	1946 Gordon A. Groves
1947 Andrew S. Snatynchuk	1947 Jean E. Macdonald
1948 W. Joseph Altilio	1948 Donald A. Zuck

continued for degree course only

1949 Carmen A. Bliss	1951 Dennis N. Strilchuk
1950 Lorna M. Kennedy	1952 David E. Guttman

1953 Victor Dowhaniuk	1973 Donna A. Daigneau
1954 Deane N. Calvert	1974 Signe M. Raasok
1955 Kenneth E. Moore	1975 Patricia M. Poohkay
1956 Allan D. Rudzik	1976 Brenda J. Miller
1957 John R. Lymer	1977 Barbara J. Kinash
1958 Alec Shysh	1978 Kathleen Daintith
1959 Deanne M. Stewart	1979 Linda Mah
1960 John H. McNeill	1980 Beverley J. Terriff
1961 Rose M. Gebauer	1981 Morley B. Swaren
1962 Lynn A. Doan	1982 Mary A. Jang
1963 Lorne H. Baldwin	1983 Louise M. Chalifoux
1964 Not awarded	1984 Thomas Woo
1965 Byron G. Lauber	1985 Cynthia J. Reesor
1966 Eugene J. Rudinsky	1986 Joseph Downie
1967 Lorna P. Richards	1987 Eugenia L. Palylyk
1968 Rosemarie Semeniuk	1988 Tracey Parker
1969 Lee L. Widney	1989 Sophia Tang
1970 Joyce M. Romanowski	1990 Georgia Gunn
1971 Patricia M. Kennedy	1991 Gaetanne Murphy
1972 Gerald W. White	1992 Gerda D. Isaac

### **Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Silver Medal in Pharmacy (Awarded for only five years)**

1964 Frederick W. Krause	1967 Dorothy A. Ballentine
1965 Marian R. Brown	1968 Geri A. Zetterstrand
1966 Linda A. Wright	

### **The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Undergraduate Awards**

Licentiate Course	Degree Course
1922 John F. Claxton	Amy E. Garbutt
1923 Henry K. Cronk	Not awarded
1924 Not awarded	Not awarded
1925 Clarence E. Gerhart	Not awarded
1926 Thomas Millward	William D. Goldberg
1927 William F. Johnston	Evelyn Shlain

1928 Joseph P. Korczynski  
 1929 Norman J. W. Archer  
 1930 Arthur W. Griswold  
 1931 Herbert C. Anderson  
 1932 Ethel V. Carr  
 1933 Not awarded  
 1934 Patrick Woodruff  
 1935 Not awarded  
 1936 William M. Mitchell  
 1937 Not awarded  
 1938 Not awarded  
 1939 Howard W. Pickup  
 1940 William Ferguson  
 1941 Aaron Mann  
 1942 J. Kenneth Penley  
 1943 Mary A. Wholey  
 1944 Gordon A. Groves

## First Year

1945 Jean Nettleton  
 1946 Andrew S. Snatynchuk  
 1947 George I. Drummond  
 1948 Lorna M. Kennedy  
 1949 Marian B. Millar  
 1950 David E. Guttman  
 1951 Alan L. Thompson  
 1952 John L. Elder  
 1953 Eileen L. Krezanoski  
 1954 Richard N. Jopling  
 1955 Douglas H. Aston  
 1956 Margaret J. Dandell  
 1957 Deanne M. Kimmelman  
 1958 Sharon Y. Layzell  
 1959 Barbara A. Short  
 1960 Anita F. Cheng  
 1961 Gerald H. Hirsch  
 1962 Douglas W. MacFarlane  
 1963 Myrna L. Charlton  
 1964 Eugene J. Barabash

Not awarded  
 Not awarded  
 Not awarded  
 Albert Coffin  
 Not awarded  
 Louis Rudolph  
 Edward Nielson  
 Phyllis M. Brewster  
 William R. McCalla  
 Cecil Johnson  
 Harry B. Olsen  
 John H. McCurrach  
 Not awarded  
 Not awarded  
 Bernard E. Riedel  
 Morris Hawkey  
 Not awarded

## Second Year

Not awarded  
 Therese Frere  
 Donald A. Zuck  
 George I. Drummond  
 Lorna M. Kennedy  
 Marian B. Millar  
 David E. Guttman  
 Alan L. Thompson  
 John Androschuk  
 Wilfred Tiedemann  
 Elner H. Bjorge  
 Josephine V. Hukalo  
 Norman R. Kobylka  
 Wilhelmena A. Edmondson  
 John H. McNeill  
 Lorraine D. M. Schultz  
 Rita E. Pilger  
 Patricia A. Sherbanuk  
 Byron G. Lauber  
 George C. Doherty

1965 Heather G. Rieberger	Richard D. Krause
1966 Beverly L. Etherington	Ann P. Lysay
1967 Stanley C. Dabisza	Sherry I. Moore
1968 Marie A. Senetchko	Joyce Romanowski
1969 Donald R. Stanski	Patricia M. Kennedy
1970 Karen L. Somerville	Wing-Kai Siu
1971 Irene E. Colliton	Sek-Cheung Yuen
1972 Patricia M. Poohkay	Margaret Petrin
1973 Linda Shymanski	Mary Gawlinsky
1974 Barbara L. Kinash	Nancy I. Campbell
1975 Kathleen H. Daintith	Barbara L. Kinash
1976 Alexander A. Zukiwski	Henry K. Wong

First Year	Second Year	Third Year
1977 Kenneth H. Poznikoff	Donna A. Fundytuss	Stephen Mallet-Paret
1978 Eng-Bee Teoh	Ian Bateson	Linda Mah
1979 Wai C. Chow	Tracy E. Schmidt	Gerald C. Lazarenko
1980 Azmina Lalani	Patricia A. Mellor	(cannot locate)
1981 Janet G. Kuzyelka	George Guzik	Eileen J. Crone
1982 Kit-Wing Lo	Thomas Ka-Wing Woo	James K. Kitagawa
1983 Micheline R. Piquette	Janet M. Donnelly	Lynne M. Montpetit
1984 Kent Kwan-Kin Leung	Jody L. Burrell	Barbara L. Palamarek
1985 Tracy L. Fisher	Eugenia L. Palylyk	Elizabeth A. Mah
1986 Shelley Hunt	Tracey Parker	Eugenia L. Palylyk
1987 Debra L. Janzen	Debra M. Nairn	Kyoko Constable
	Tsan Cheuk (tie)	
1988 Trina Ngo	Debra McIntyre	Deborah Chu
1989 Pauline Wong	Joseph Stang	John Baxter
1990 Shannon Feser	Colin Porozni	J. Leanne Steele
1991 Laurel Pepe	Teresa Kindopp	Daria Stypinski
1992 Alison J. Knight	Dusty J. Read	Shannon M. Feser

### **The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Scholarship** (Created at the time of the 75th Anniversary of the School-Faculty)

1990 Joseph Stang	1992 Jason J. Zuback
1991 James Wiedrick	

### Centennial Pharmacy Travel Award

Presented jointly by A.Ph.A., C.Ph.A. & pharmacist owners of Shoppers Drug Mart, enabling a third year student to attend a convention of the Canadian Pharmaceutical Association.

1967 Dale A. Stogryn	1980 Camille Boulet
1968 Arlene Baker	1981 Eileen J. Crone
1969 Joyce Romanowski	1982 Perry Sollway
1970 Patricia Kennedy	1983 Lynn Montpetit
1971 Merose A. Stelmaschuk	1984 Judith L. Jorgenson
1972 Donna A. Daigneau	1985 Christine Crighton
1973 Marlene Raasok	1986 Lori Bonertz
1974 Byron Bergh	1987 Nese Yuksel
1975 Thomas Evans	1988 Cindy Zackowski
1976 Walter Hackett	1989 Dianne Lazorko
1977 Sheilagh Stroud	1990 Laurie Ann Hrynchuk
1978 Alexander Zukiwski	1991 Pam Milne
1979 Kim Ducs	1992 Thomas Curr

### The M. J. Warner Memorial Prize

Presented by A.Ph.A. to a student entering the fourth year, based on courses in pharmacy in the preceding year.

1949 Lorna M. Kennedy	1964 Emily A. Jamison
1950 Marian B. Millar	1965 Linda A. Wright
1951 Michael Shysh	1966 Amy G. Yamamoto
1952 Victor Dowhaniuk	1967 Marilynne Bergos
1953 John Androschuk	1968 Stan C. Dabisza
1954 Kenneth E. Moore	1969 Linda D. Hames
1955 Allan D. Rudzik	1970 Donald R. Stanski
1956 Douglas H. Aston	1971 Verna L. Conrad
1957 Doreen Carruthers	1972 Irene E. Colliton
1958 Deanne Kimmelman	1973 Edith Bower
1959 Sharon Y. Layzell	1974 Gwen A. Corrigan
1960 Janet E. Sonoda	1975 Kerry J. Logan
1961 Anita F. Cheung	1976 Gloria E. Woods
1962 Gerald H. Hirsch	1977 Kathleen Daintith
1963 Donna L. Roxburgh	1978 Elizabeth Washburn

1979 Debbie Vaselenak	1986 Pamela Payne
1980 Thomas Prohaszka	1987 Keith Drader
1981 Vanessa Ho	1988 Deborah Chu
Mary Jang (tie)	1989 John Baxter
1982 Po-Lin A. Tang	1990 Patrick Bruce
1983 Lynne Montpetit	1991 James Wiedrick
1984 Barbara Palamarek	1992 Marian P. Nikel
1985 Elizabeth A. Mah	

### **The Mervyn J. Huston Scholarship in Pharmacy**

Presented by A.Ph.A. to a student of outstanding merit entering second, third or the final year of study at the Faculty of Pharmacy.

1979 Beverly J. Terriff	1986 Leock Ngo
1980 Tracey E. Schmidt	1987 Jody L. Onyskiw
1981 Patricia A. Mellor	1988 May Mei-Yuk Wong
1982 Indera Singh	1989 James Wiedrick
1983 Joyce K. Nishi	1990 Laurel Middendorf
1984 Eugenia L. Palylyk	1991 Laurel Pepe
1985 Carrie M. Greig	1992 May Alhussaini

### **The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Prize in Dispensing**

1947 Glenrose Devicq	1959 Norman Chuen	1970 Patricia Kennedy
1948 Peter H. Coyle	1960 Rose M. Gebauer	1971 Gerald W. White
1949 Lorna M. Kennedy	1961 Edwin W. Howe	1972 Sek C. Yuen
1950 Dennis Strilchuk	1962 Joanne S. Prymak	1973 Karen Masur
1951 Michael Shysh	1963 Helen Karvellas	1974 Gordon Melling
1952 Victor Dowhaniuk	1964 Marian R. Brown	1975 Cheryl A. Elder
1953 Audrey E. Paulence	1965 Robert G. Bailey	1976 Barbara Kinash
1954 Kenneth E. Moore	1966 Elaine Yakimets	1977 S. Mallet-Paret
1955 Norman Chalifoux	1967 Lee L. Widney	1978/79 cannot locate
1956 John R. Lymer	1968 Joyce Romanowski	1980 Danny H. Payne
1957 Stanley A. Lissack	1969 Robert F. Kaptý	1981 Eileen J. Crone
1958 Hipolit Yaworski		

### **The Prize for Pharmaceutical Research**

A.Ph.A. award for best reasearch thesis in senior year.

1959 Alice Romanowski	1965 Byron G. Lauber
1960 Charlotte D. Wilders	1966 Joan I. Neilson
1961 Janet E. Russell	1967 Lorna P. Richards
1962 Rita A. Pilger	1968 Colin Heard
1963 James R. Ferguson	1969 Frank D. Semaka
1964 Not awarded	

### **Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Prize for Marketing and Management**

1970 Nancy J. Young	1976 Val Langevin
1971 Barbara L. Tomm	1977 Gordon Richman
1972 Wing-Kai Siu	1978 Barry Misik
1973 Verna Conrad	1979 Donna V. Mateyko
1974 Christine J. Elaszuk	1980 Deborah K. Low-On
1975 Majda J. Pahulje	1981 Thomas L. Prohaszka

### **Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Certificate of Merit Award Winners**

1. James T. Clarke (1966)	7. Herbert A. Dixon (1988)
2. Ted Hart (1971)	8. Clarence P. Weppler (1989)
3. Alan Samuelson (1983)	9. Margo E. Ward and Charles J. Meagher (1990)
4. Larry Shipka (1985)	10. Kenneth W. Whiteley (1991)
5. Dr. Dick Moskalyk (1985)	11. Donald S. Vickerson (1992)
6. Rosemary Bacovsky (1988)	

### **Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Pharmacist of the Year Award Winners**

1. Stanley Dabisza (1980)	8. Dwayne Samycia (1987)
2. Doug Levy (1981)	9. Linda Poloway (1988)
3. Ron MacLean (1982)	10. Cecilia A. Laskoski (1989)
4. Pearl Jin (1983)	11. Byron Bergh (1990)
5. Arthur Kriese (1984)	12. David S. Wing (1991)
6. Leigh Heard (1985)	13. Kay Thompson (1992)
7. Judy Baker (1986)	



Honorary Life Members  
receive their certificates.  
l to r: Thomas H. McCready,  
William F. McGill, and  
J. Warden Somers.

### Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Honourary Life Members

Frank Cowles  
George H. Graydon  
John D. Higinbotham  
John F. McCallum  
Wendell MacLean  
Andrew E. Porter  
Miss Annie Simpson  
Charles E. Shaw  
Hiram McKechnie  
Walter L. Boddy  
Larry J. Shipka  
Otto L. Reinecke  
Dr. A. W. "Whit" Matthews

Clarence W. Pickup  
Thomas H. McCready  
William F. McGill  
John R. K. Graham  
John Warden Somers  
James T. Clarke  
William M. Marshall  
Ira C. Fletcher  
F. A. Stewart-Dunn  
Harvey A. Switzer  
Edward L. Kadlec  
Victor E. Hessell

Dr. Mervyn J. Huston  
W. Walter Maday  
Dorothy Boyce  
Donald M. Cameron  
Walter Hill  
Dr. Leslie G. Chatten  
Dr. Gordon E. Myers  
Dr. Arthur J. Anderson  
Dr. B. E. Riedel  
Ernest E. Sexsmith  
Eli Ambrosie  
N. Gordon Johnson

### Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Honourary Members

Dr. G. A. Lapointe  
Sir Hugh Linstead  
B. Bertrand  
John C. Turnbull, O.C.  
Joseph H. Stepa  
John W. B. Shipley  
Dr. Ronald T. Coutts  
Kenneth C. Waite

Thomas Kirton  
Glenn Gaucher  
Hubert (Hugh) Turner  
Dr. T. H. (Ted) Aaron  
Dr. L. R. Ohlhauser  
Dr. J. A. Bachynsky  
John V. Decore, Q.C.



## Trends In Pharmacy

by Donald M. Cameron

CERTAIN HAPPENINGS in the period being reported upon have caused a marked change of direction in the practice of pharmacy.

Once, patients suffering from mental disorders were placed in institutions. Once, such places were styled insane asylums and the more serious patients were usually destined never to leave. A new flood of anti-psychotic drugs came upon the market and allowed many of the less afflicted to leave the institution and return to their community, hopefully, to lead normal and useful lives. At first the medication they had benefited from was sent by the institution, by mail. This proved too uncertain and after countless meetings, the community pharmacist was called upon to be the supplier of drugs. The pharmacist had a new challenge. He inherited a number of shy, suspicious withdrawn patients. These he was expected to communicate with, to counsel, to extract compliance, and it is to his credit that he enjoyed remarkable success.

The 1960's and onward brought a new reality and an increasing number of patients. Prior to 1960 the welfare situation was, at best, hit and miss. Most pharmacists never refused to dispense a prescription even if there was a strong likelihood they would never be paid. Most people are honest: they intended to pay, when they could, and many paid, weeks, months, or years after the service had been rendered. In this capacity the pharmacist was no different than the physician, the dentist, the lawyer, or the grocer. But as the number who could not pay grew, a system was evolved whereby the government or some agency paid. We are now well into the welfare system where a significant number of the populace receive welfare benefits. There are many pharmacies which rely heavily on welfare benefits supplied by government and/or an agency to pay. Without the "system" they could not possibly survive. The welfare system and others such as Alberta Aids to Daily Living (A.A.D.L.), senior programs, a program for natives and some government personnel has led to a paper horror. Forms! Forms! Forms! Refusals and re-submissions. But

the rank and file in pharmacy shed only a few tears. Bad debts are relatively a thing of the past.

Mention was earlier made of the A.A.D.L. Program. It has necessitated that a rather large number of pharmacists learn about surgical appliances, trusses and belts and all such paraphernalia as are or may be required by an increasing number of physically disadvantaged patients.

In this period Alberta Blue Cross is retained by the government to administer coverage for much of the prescription bill for seniors. Blue Cross had extended its coverage for all or part of the expense for various groups and again the pharmacist has been forced to encounter myriad book-keeping and accounting responsibilities. Representatives of the profession are negotiating, almost continually, for such items as eligibility (of both patients and drugs) fee and associated concerns.

The 1960's saw the introduction of the concept of "cost plus fee". It eliminated the profit, "on the content", and rewarded the pharmacist for the ability to dispense and the willingness to do so.

Twice in the 1960's the Association retained the services of Hu Harries and Associates to determine the "cost" of dispensing a prescription. The first effort resulted in a cost plus \$2.00 fee, which was a standard for quite some time. The concept of cost plus fee was well accepted by the membership (with limited exceptions); by the Medical profession; by the public and generally by all who had a concern including governments and agencies.

The concept has stood the test of time for nearly thirty years and negotiations are continual to discuss quantity, brand, acquisition cost, fee and eligibility, again, of both patient and drug.

There have been exceptions to the foregoing statement including some or all "over the counter drugs" and the oral contraceptive. This isolated product has generally been priced at or near the old standard known as "list price".

During the 1960's renal dialysis was introduced and some pharmacists gamely tried to play the game of "cost plus fee". A cost of hundreds of dollars and a fee of \$2.00 persuaded both the government and the pharmacy practitioner that in this special interest area the pharmacist could not be expected to play an effective professional role. The same conclusion was reached in such programs as patients suffering from such as cystic fibrosis.

Undoubtedly the one thing that has most changed patterns of practice has been the introduction of the computer.

When first introduced there was little concern with its possible impact on pharmacy. The Association appointed a committee to investigate its application to the practice of pharmacy. Countless hours were spent on this exercise and many pharmacists practising today are unaware of the debt they owe to a few dedicated pharmacists who had the world in the palm of their hand.

These 5,000 prescriptions once so filed at Northern Drug, Wetaskiwin, would now all be on part of a computer disc.



Unfortunately, due to a series of circumstances the chance to put Alberta light years ahead of the rest of the world slipped away.

The computer is now such a factor in the pharmacist's work-a-day world that many cannot fancy ever having been without it. It is the memory of name, price, quantity, how often dispensed and has become so sophisticated, that it truly nearly lives up to the prediction that "it will do whatever you want it to do".

Since the world began, one of the crying needs of health practitioners has been to discover a means to ensure patient compliance. We all know several reasons why the patient does not comply with his drug regimen and it is a constant challenge to encourage him to do so in order to:

- a) maintain health
- b) regain health
- c) prevent recurrence of the illness or even death, and not to be overlooked, the colossal expense which accompanies non-compliance.

We have all seen the introduction of the daily pill box, the seven day organizer, special separate instruction, the dosette and now counselling and more frequent contact have added an impetus.

In the final analysis in assessing the period from the 1960's to the present perhaps the greatest change is the continual search for knowledge. As a side effect many pharmacists are employed, exclusively, in professional activities. They communicate with other health care professionals; they dispense pre-

scriptions and upon delivery they counsel the patient about what to do and, equally important, what not to do. They alert themselves to other drugs being taken concurrently even to non-prescription drugs.

Old timers will say "so what's new? That's what I did thirty, forty, fifty years ago." Perhaps that is true but he did it with a great deal less information, but perhaps a greater knowledge of his patient.

The price of prescriptions has provided a political football as long as most can remember. The latter half of the twentieth century has been no exception.

In 1961 the Sifton Press ran a nonsensical series of articles in which, for instance, the retail pharmacist was pictured in cartoons wearing a black eye-mask as he "robbed customers". The articles were so nonsensical and error riddled that they created almost no reaction.

Next up to bat was the Restrictive Trade Practices Commission. This three man investigating crusade toured Canada. In its final report the Commission made only one derogatory comment. This was to the effect that a code on a prescription copy that indicated the price charged at the original store might be unethical.

The Royal Commission on Health Services (The Hall Commission so named after Mr. Justice Emmet Hall) carried on exhaustive hearings from Newfoundland to Vancouver Island. Its recommendations on all health professions, including pharmacy, may be found in a three-inch hard cover report.

Pharmacy responded to the Harley Committee on the price of prescription drugs.

Some actions for the common good have come to naught. Pharmacy presented a brief and met with the House Builders Association to lobby for a locked drawer in the bathroom of new homes, while under construction. The purpose was to prevent accidental poisonings of children who have a habit of ransacking and emptying drawers. The request died because the house builders said it would add \$15 to the cost of each new home; besides, they said they had no authority to require such a precaution.

In the hundred year history under review there has been a heap of cooperation between the profession and the University and the profession and industry. Industry has done much to encourage students, professors and practitioners. One firm, Eli Lilly, used to sponsor trips for students and staff to Indianapolis to see first hand, the work of research and manufacturing. Robins, for a number of years, has honoured a pharmacist from each province in Canada and each state of the Union for outstanding contribution to his community. Parke-Davis made available a series of pictures styled, "The History of Pharmacy in Pictures". Industry has been a strong supporter of the Canadian Foundation for the advancement of pharmacy. These are but a few instances of industry-profession cooperation.

## Quo Vadis

by J. K. Penley

A HISTORY BOOK is expected to inform the reader of what has happened. This chapter will attempt to inform the reader of what will happen.

In 1991 a request was made by the Archives Committee of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association of well over fifty prominent pharmacists in Alberta. They were asked to forecast the position and function of pharmacists thirty years hence. The request read:

Part of the preface for this book reads: "It is said that pharmacy has made greater strides, as a science, in the last fifty years than it made in the fifty generations which preceded." We can probably agree that the twentieth century was, and is, the century in which pharmacy changed from an art form to a true science.

Where is pharmacy going? Would you please express, in fifty words or less, your prediction for the practice of pharmacy in the year 2021 – just 30 short years from now. Many of you will live to "view" the practice in 2021.

A small group of approximately 50 pharmacists has been selected to respond to this request. This group represents pharmacists in education, retail professional and hospital pharmacy, society presidents, councillors, archivists, and administrative staff. You need not sign your name unless you choose to do so.

From those that replied we have summarized these forecasts followed by some quotations from individuals:

The most common opinion for our future was that the pharmacist will be primarily a provider of information. Consultation will be the main function in his or her professional day.

Physicians will diagnose, pharmacists will prescribe. Dispensing will be done by trained technicians under supervision of a pharmacist.

Training will change. One respondent suggest that a Pharm. D degree will be a necessity. There will be a minor revolution in course content. Another feels that categories of service provision will require trainees from different sources, from technical schools, to universities, to post-graduate studies.

Very few discussed the type of physical pharmacy from which a pharmacist would practise. In larger cities, it was suggested that polarization will occur, from a mainly commercial operation to a purely professional function. More use will be made of technical assistance such as use of robotics and computers.

More than one respondent suggested that some commonly prescribed medications would be available to patients from automated machines, activated by a pre-programmed card or some code provided by the physician. In such a scenario, the pharmacist would not be required.

Finally, one suggestion made was that our sons and daughters, in 2021, will again be dealing with efforts to have a new Pharmacy Act and will be looking for a new, enlarged home for our Association offices.

Some of the thirty year projections, quoted from the replies, follow:

Science and technology will allow for pharmaceutical evolution at a rate yet to be imagined. Innovation will be controlled only by ethics and economics. The critical question will be, "How long can we afford life to exist?"

Pharmacy care will be provided by professional entities of larger corporations or speciality services.

Pharmacists will work more closely with physicians to provide rational and cost effective therapy to the patient.

The professional and economic challenges will remain but the pharmacists ultimate concern will be the public's health, with emphasis on prevention of disease.

The role of pharmacy technicians will be expanded, allowing for more cost-effective utilization of the pharmacist's professional expertise. Increased merging and sharing of the roles between community and institutional pharmacy practice, as a result of the continuing focus on home health care and the special products that this will require.

Retail pharmacy, as we know it in 1991, will not exist. We will have machines that dispense pre-packaged drugs through a pre-programmed card. Pharmacists will monitor compliance, drug reactions and inter-actions and consult on non-prescribed medications desired by the patient.

Biotechnology will have advanced to the point where diagnostic kits will be available for many pathological conditions. A trip to the pharmacy may then include both the diagnosis and treatment of many ailments. As fewer health care professionals are required, competition between the professions to perform these services for the ill may be fierce.

Increasing specificity of newly developed pharmaceuticals will distance pharmacy from the other medical disciplines, while a further specialization will occur within the profession.

The trend, already evident, to electronic data transfer rather than to hard copy prescriptions, will continue and become commonplace.

Pharmacists will require a Pharm. D degree. Medical doctors will continue to diagnose but pharmacists will prescribe the medication. The dispensing function will be supervised by pharmacists, working in community health care centres.

The university course will be of five years duration as now and will still require some form of practical training such as internship.

A "druggist" will be trained by a technical school such as N.A.I.T. or S.A.I.T.. Such a person would act as manager and merchandiser in large merchandising type drug stores. Prescriptions and controlled drugs would not be available at such outlets. A "pharmacist" will obtain a degree at the university and will be the dispenser of prescriptions. Specialties in pharmacy, such as hospital practice, will require some extra training.

Pharmacists have been concerned primarily with drug distribution. In the future, pharmacists will increasingly and professionally provide drug information and be rewarded directly for this service.

Distribution will give way to consultation. Drug monitoring and intervention to procure proper utilization will be foremost.

Pharmacy is at a crossroads. Its future, now more than ever, rests in the hands of today's pharmacists and how they react to the economic restraints on health care, the reform of the health system, the multidisciplinary approach to health care and the elimination of the exclusive scope of practice for health professionals.

The role of the pharmacist will expand to include health promotion, health education and illness prevention activities. Pharmacists will be the drug therapy experts and will manage prescription drugs cost-effectively by prescribing and monitoring therapy in hospitals as well as in community wellness or health clinics. Community pharmacists will be primarily employed in the public sector with many of few remaining retail pharmacies being either types of health/pharmacy boutiques or super pharmacies. Drug therapy will be significantly different, with many drugs supplied in depot form and internal sensors regulating the drug blood levels. Many hereditary diseases treated with drugs today will have been cured through gene manipulation. Other drugs, currently on prescription status, will be available over the counter. Patients will be more interested in their health, often monitoring their health in their homes. They will have the option of accessing primary and specialty care through a wide variety of health professionals, including pharmacists.

The future is ours to behold. Our value is yet to be harnessed. Our actions now will dictate our existence in the future.





# Appendix 1:

## The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act

(Assented to December 16, 1910)

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Alberta, enacts as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as "*The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association Act*."
2. In this Act "person" shall include partnerships or incorporated companies.
3. All persons now registered as members of the Pharmaceutical Association of the North-West Territories who comply with the by-laws of the Pharmaceutical Association of Alberta, and all persons hereafter registered under the provisions of this Act, shall constitute the association called "The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association," and the said association shall be deemed a body politic and corporate, with power to sue and be sued, and with power to hold real estate not exceeding in annual value twenty thousand dollars, and with power to alienate, transfer and deal with such real estate, exchange, mortgage, lease or otherwise charge or dispose of both real estate and personal property or any part thereof.
4. There shall be general meetings of the said association held from time to time as hereinafter mentioned and there shall also be a council to direct and manage the affairs of the said corporation; and the said general meetings and the council shall have the entire direction and management of the said corporation in the matter and subject to the regulations hereinafter mentioned; and at all general meetings and meetings of the council the majority of the members present and having a right to vote thereat respectively shall decide upon the matters propounded to such meetings—the person presiding in case of an equality of votes to have the casting vote.
5. The first council shall be appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, three to serve one year and four for two years, and shall continue in office until their successors are elected or appointed.

6. The second and all subsequent councils shall be elected or appointed by the members of the association in the manner herein provided and shall be elected or appointed as the case may be for a period of two years but any member may resign his appointment at any time by letter addressed to the president or the registrar of the council; and upon the death, resignation or removal of any member of the council to elect and appoint some other person being a member of the association and otherwise eligible to supply the vacancy so made; and the person so appointed shall be taken in all respects as regards his duration of office to represent the person in whose stead he has been appointed.

7. The association may hold general meetings once in the year, at a time and place to be determined by the council, and also such general meetings as the council may from time to time think proper; the annual general meeting shall be held on the second Tuesday in the month of July in each year, or such other day near thereto as shall be determined by the council; and further upon the recommendation in writing of the six members of the association entitled to vote requesting the council to convene a special general meeting for the purpose specified in the requisition; such meeting shall be convened by the president within such reasonable time as the council shall see fit, they first giving such notice thereof as may be required by the by-laws of the corporation and the purpose for which the same is convened.

8. The persons qualified to vote at elections of members of the council shall be such persons as are at that time members of the association, and the time, place and manner of such elections shall be laid down by the by-laws of the corporation subject to the provisions of the Act.

9. No person shall be eligible to be elected a member of the council unless he is registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act, and unless he resides within the Province of Alberta and carries on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist within the Province of Alberta.

10. The charge and conduct of the elections shall be under the management of the registrar-treasurer of the council.

11. Every person entitled to vote may vote for as many members as there are vacancies to be filled.

12. Such votes shall be given by closed ballots to be issued by the registrar-treasurer at least twenty days prior to the day of the election, and shall be in form A in schedule I hereto or to like effect, and signed by the voter and delivered to the registrar-treasurer on any of the twenty days preceding the election. Any ballots mailed to the said registrar-treasurer by post in time to reach him before the date of election shall be deemed delivered to him.

13. The three or four candidates as the case may be who have the highest number of votes shall be the members of the council for the two years following the date of such election and until their successors are elected or appointed.

14. Any person entitled to vote at any election shall be entitled to be present at the opening of the ballots at such election.

15. In case of an equality of votes between two or more persons which leaves the election of one or more of the members of the council undecided, the registrar shall in the presence of the scrutineers forthwith put into a box a number of papers with the names of the candidates having such equality of votes written thereon one for each candidate, and the registrar-treasurer in the presence of the scrutineers shall draw by chance from such ballot box one or more of such ballot papers sufficient to make up the required number, and the persons whose names are upon such papers so drawn shall be such members.

16. If the association at any time desire to divide the province into electoral divisions for the purpose of election of members of the council under this Act, the association may, by by-law, make such a division and make provision for the holding of elections in accordance therewith varying if necessary the provisions regarding elections above set forth.

17. The council of the association for the time being shall at their first meeting after their election or appointment elect from among their members a president, vice-president and a registrar-treasurer, and such registrar-treasurer need not be a member of the council nor a member of the association.

18. The council of the association shall have the sole control and management of the real and personal property of such association subject to the by-laws thereof:

Provided always that no sale or mortgage of any such property shall be made except with the approbation and concurrence of a general meeting of the members of the association specially called for such purpose.

19. The council shall have power to fix such fees and make such by-laws, rules and regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as they shall deem necessary for carrying out the objects of the association, and by such by-laws may particularly, and in addition to any other powers they may have, fix the examination, registration or annual fees to be paid by apprentices or members of the association, and may provide that the annual fees of nonresident or nonpractising members shall be on a different basis to those of active members, and may provide that the annual fee of any member which remains unpaid for a period to be specified in such by-laws, shall on the expiration of such period be increased to an amount specified in such by-law and may provide for the depositing and disbursement of the funds of the

association, and may provide that all active members shall be supplied with and shall keep exposed in their places of business certificates showing their annual fees for the year then current are paid, and may provide for the striking off the record or suspension from practice or business as a member of the association of any member for nonpayment of fees due to the association and for the reinstatement of such member upon such terms as the council think fit, and may from time to time amend, revoke or substitute other by-laws in their stead; and such fees, by-laws, rules and regulations may also be amended, altered or repealed in whole or in part at any annual general meeting of the association provided previous notice be given of the intention so to do, such notice to be given in accordance with the by-laws in force for the time being.

20. It shall be the duty of the registrar-treasurer to make and keep a correct register in accordance with the provisions hereof of all persons who are registered under the provisions hereof, and to enter their qualifications opposite the names of all registered persons who shall have filed a statement of such and from time to time make the necessary alterations in the addresses of persons so registered.

21. Every person before he is taken as an apprentice by a pharmaceutical chemist shall produce satisfactory evidence of good moral character and pass a preliminary examination or otherwise satisfy the council of his proficiency, after which he shall be registered as a "certified apprentice":

Provided, however, that it shall not be necessary for any person who has been engaged as apprentice to any member of the Pharmaceutical Association of the North-West Territories prior to this Act becoming law to furnish evidence of educational proficiency; but upon the registrar-treasurer being satisfied by statutory declaration of the employer that such apprentice is entitled to be registered, he shall register such apprentice as a "certified apprentice," and any time served by such apprentice prior to such registration shall be counted as a part of his actual service.

22. On payment of the prescribed fees the following may be registered as members of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association:

1. Any person who complies with the provisions of this Act as to registration and passes the examinations herein prescribed;

2. All persons who are members of the Pharmaceutical Association of the North-West Territories and who comply with the by-laws of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association;

3. All persons approved of by the council of the association who hold diplomas from the Pharmaceutical Association of Great Britain or certificates from any Pharmaceutical College in the Dominion of Canada may be registered as members of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association without the examinations provided by this Act, provided such association or college accepts without further examination certificates of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

23. No name shall be entered in the register except of persons authorized by this Act to be registered, nor unless the registrar-treasurer is satisfied by proper evidence that the person claiming is entitled to be registered; and any appeal from the decision of the registrar-treasurer may be decided by the council, and any entry proved to the satisfaction of the council to have been fraudulently or incorrectly made ay be erased from and amended in the register by order of the council.

24. Upon any person being registered as aforesaid he shall be entitled to receive a certificate in form B in schedule 1 hereto, or to the like effect, under the corporate seal of the association and signed by the president and registrar-treasurer, and shall be entitled to receive a similar certificate annually upon the payment of a fee to be determined by the council.

25. Every candidate for the examination shall produce evidence that he has served at least four years in a drug store, and shall pass an examination which shall embrace chemistry, pharmacy, botany, materia medica, reading and translating prescriptions and practical dispensing, and after passing this examination and producing the required certificates shall be registered a pharmaceutical chemist.

26. The examination referred to shall take place and be regulated by such rules, regulations or by-laws as may be in force at the time such examination is held, and all candidates for the same shall pay such fees as may be imposed by any such rules, regulations or by-laws.

27. The council of the association shall have the authority, notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, to prescribe the subjects upon which candidates for the competency shall be examined, and to establish a scale of fees to be paid by persons applying for examination.

28. Any person registered under this Act, and no other person, shall be entitled to be called a pharmaceutical chemist and no other person except a pharmaceutical chemist as aforesaid or his employee or employees shall be authorized to compound prescriptions of legally authorized medical practitioners; but no person shall be entitled to any of the privileges of a pharmaceutical chemist, or member of the association, who i in default in regard to any fees payable by him by virtue of this Act or by any by-law of the association.

29. Upon a resolution of the council being passed declaring that any person in consequence of his conviction for any offence or offences against this Act, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may direct that the name of such person shall be erased from the register, and it shall be the duty of the registrar-treasurer to erase the same accordingly.

30. No person shall sell or keep open shop for retailing, dispensing or compounding any of the poisons, drugs or medicines, mentioned in schedule A to this Act, or assume or use the title of the chemist and druggist, or chemist or druggist, or pharmacist, or apothecary, or dispensing chemist, or dispensing druggist, or any sign, title, or advertisement implying or calculated to lead people to infer that he is registered under this Act in any part of the Province of Alberta unless such person is registered under this Act and unless such person has taken out a certificate under the provisions of this Act, for the time during which he is selling or keeping open shop for retailing, dispensing or compounding poisons or assuming or using such title.

31. The several articles named or described in schedule A shall be deemed to be poisons within the meaning of this Act, and the council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association hereinbefore mentioned may from time to time by resolution declare that any article in the resolutions named ought to be deemed a poison within the meaning of this Act, and thereupon the said council shall submit the same for the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and if approval is given then such resolution and approval shall be advertised in the Alberta Gazette, and on the expiration of one month from the advertisement the article named in the resolution shall be deemed to be a poison within the meaning of this Act, and the same shall be subject to the provisions of this Act herein contained.

32. No person selling any article or articles in violation of the provisions of this Act shall recover any charges in respect thereof, in any court of law or equity nor shall any drug business be carried on by a pharmaceutical chemist unless such business is under his personal supervision or unless he employ in it a duly registered pharmaceutical chemist.

32a. No person shall sell by retail, furnish or dispose of alkaloid, cocaine or its salts or alpha or beta cocaine of their salts or any admixture of cocaine or encaine except upon the written prescription of a legally qualified medical practitioner, which shall be retained by the person who sells, furnishes or disposes of the same and such prescription shall not be filled more than once, and no copy thereof shall be taken by or given to any person.

32b. Alkaloid cocaine or its salts and alpha and beta encaine or their salts shall not be sold or disposed of by wholesale except upon the written order of a pharmaceutical chemist, a legally qualified medical practitioner, a licensed veterinary surgeon or a licentiate of dental surgery and unless the person so selling or disposing by wholesale affixes or causes to be affixed to the bottle, box, vessel or package containing the articles sold and also upon the outer wrapper of the package as put up by the manufacturer, a label distinctly displaying the name and quantity of cocaine or its salts or alpha or beta encaine or its salts, sold or disposed of and the word "poison" with the name, address and place of business of such person, all printed in red ink.

33. Any person violating any of the provisions of this Act, shall for the first offence incur a penalty of twenty dollars and costs of prosecution, and for each offence committed subsequent to such conviction, a penalty of fifty dollars and costs of prosecution, to be recovered in a summary manner under the provisions of *The Criminal Code of Canada*.

34. No person shall sell any poison named in the first part of schedule A, either by wholesale or retail, unless the box, bottle, vessel, wrapper or cover in which the poison is contained is distinctly labelled with the name of the article and the word "poison," and if sold by retail then also with the name and address of the proprietor of the establishment in which such poison is sold; and no person shall sell any poison mentioned in the first part of schedule A to any person unknown to the seller unless introduced by some person known to the seller, and on every sale of such article the person actually selling the same shall, before delivery, make an entry in a book to be kept for that purpose, in the form set out in schedule B to this Act, stating the date of the sale, the name and address of the purchaser, the name and quantity of the article sold, the purpose for which it is stated by the purchaser to be required, and the name of the person, if any, who introduced him, to which entry the signature of the purchaser shall be affixed.

35. In any prosecution under this Act the onus shall be upon the defendant to prove that he is entitled to sell or keep open shop for compounding medicines or retailing poisons, and to assume the title of chemist and druggist, or other title mentioned in section 30 of this Act, and to prove that any unregistered person who personally takes any part whatever in selling or dispensing drugs or medicines is authorized by this Act to do, and the production of a certificate purporting to be under the hand of the registrar-treasurer and under the seal of the association, showing that any person named therein is entitled as aforesaid shall be *prima facie* evidence that such person is so entitled.

36. A certificate under the hand of the registrar-treasurer and under the seal of the Pharmaceutical Association to the effect that any person, firm or incorporated company is, or is not registered under this Act shall be *prima facie* evidence of such fact without proof of the fact that the person signing the same occupies the position which he purports to occupy.

37. Upon the decease of any person legally authorized and actually carrying on the business of chemist and druggist at the time of his death, it shall be lawful for the executor, administrator, or trustee of the estate of such person to continue the business if any so long as the business is *bona fide* conducted by a pharmaceutical chemist registered under this Act, provided such executor, administrator or trustee continues to pay the annual registration fee as provided by the by-laws of the association.



38. The registrar-treasurer whenever required by order of the Executive Council shall transmit to the Provincial Secretary a return certified under oath setting forth all such information and particulars relating to the Pharmaceutical Association as may from time to time be required.

39. Nothing in this Act contained shall extend to or interfere with the privileges conferred upon legally qualified medical practitioners by *The Alberta Medical Act*:

Provided that where such medical practitioner desires to carry on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist as defined by this Act, he shall not be required to pass the examination prescribed by the College of Pharmacy, but he shall register as a pharmaceutical chemist and comply with all requirements of this Act and nothing in this Act contained shall prevent any person whatsoever from selling goods of any kind to any person legally authorized to carry on the business of an apothecary, chemist or druggist, or the profession of a doctor of medicine, physician or surgeon, or veterinary surgeon, or shall prevent the members of such profession supplying to their patients such medicines as they may require, or except as herein provided, shall interfere with the business of wholesale dealers in supplying poisons or other articles in the ordinary course of wholesale dealing.

40. This Act shall not apply to that portion of Alberta lying north of township 68 of the Dominion Lands Survey; provided, however, that it shall apply to any portion north of said township if so declared by order of the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

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## SCHEDULE A

### PART I.

Acid Hydrocyanic.

Aconite, and preparations and compounds thereof.

Antimony Tartarated.

Arsenic, and preparations and compounds thereof except Paris Green.

Atropine.

Belladonna, and preparations and compounds thereof.

Choral Hydrate.

Chloroform.

Cocaine.

Conium, and preparations thereof.

Croton Oil.

Digitalin.

Ergot, and preparations and compounds thereof.

Hyosciamus, and preparations.  
Indian Hemp.  
Mercury Bichloride.  
Morphia, and its salts and solutions.  
Nux Vomica, and its preparations.  
Oil of Bitter Almonds.  
Oil of Pennyroyal.  
Oil of Tansy.  
Opium, and preparations and compounds thereof excepting Paregoric.  
Potassium Cyanide.  
Strychnine, and its salts and solutions.

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PART II.

Acetanalid.  
Acid Carbolic.  
Acit Oxalic.  
Antipyrin.  
Calabar Beans.  
Cantharides.  
Cocculus Spirits.  
Digitalis and preparations.  
Euphorbium.  
Elaterium.  
Iodine and preparations.  
Mercury and preparations.  
Oil of Cedar.  
Phenacetin.  
Potassium Iodide.  
Podophyllin.  
Phosphorus.  
Savin, and preparations.  
St. Ignatius Beans.  
Santonin.  
Sabadilla Seeds.  
Scammony.  
Sulfonal.  
Trional.  
Veratrine.  
Verdigris.  
Zinc Sulphate.

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## SCHEDULE 1.

## FORM A.

## THE ALBERTA PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION VOTING PAPER FOR ANNUAL ELECTIONS.

I, ....., a registered pharmaceutical chemist, vote for the seven persons hereinafter named to form the members of the Council of the Council of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....
6. ....
7. ....

And I declare that I am entitled to vote at this election, and am not in default in payment of my dues to the council.

Dated this. .... day of. .... 1910.

## FORM B.

This is to certify that. ...., having complied with the provisions of the Pharmaceutical Association of Alberta, has been duly registered a member of the association, and is entitled to be styled a pharmaceutical chemist, and to enjoy all the privileges of such as set forth in the Act respecting Chemists and Druggists in the Province of Alberta.

.....  
Registrar of the Alberta Pharmaceutical Association.

# Appendix 2:

## Acknowledgement of Financial Assistance

*The Alberta Pharmaceutical Association would like to thank the following major contributors, who have financially assisted in bringing this vision to fruition. Through their assistance, each and every one of our members will be able to enjoy the heritage of Pharmacy in Alberta.*

### **Major Corporate Donors**

Eli Lilly Canada Inc.  
Northwest Drug Co. Ltd.  
Parke-Davis Canada Inc.

### **Major Personal Donors**

Dorothy Boyce	Darlene MacLean
Dick HOLETON	Ronald MacLean
Ronald Holmes	Ken Penley
Muriel Johnston	Prudence Penley















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